

Chapter 401 - A Burning Ambition

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

It was Xu Jinshan who had asked him to come to the hotel for an appointment and told him that he had some business regarding the transfer of power of Yunhai. He arrived at the hotel room and found that the door was unlocked.

He opened the door and walked into the suite. He did not see Xu Jinshan, but he heard the door closing behind him.

He turned around and saw Xu Xinrou in silk lingerie, standing barefoot near the door with a wine glass in her hand.

She watched him quietly with a seductive smile on her face.

She only wore a thin silk lingerie, and her smooth and delicate curves seemed to appear and disappear beneath the wispy fabric. Any man who saw her would feel the urge to tear the lingerie off of her.

Huo Jingtang looked her over, his eyes lingering briefly on her fair slender legs. He was smart enough to understand what was going on.

“Director Xu asked me to meet him here. I didn’t expect to see you here too, Miss Xu.”

Huo Jingtang was dressed in a black suit. He looked imposing as he stood there, showing no emotion in his deep and mysterious eyes.

“That’s right, Dad has something urgent to deal with, so he asked me to chat with you in the meantime.”

Xu Xinrou walked towards Huo Jingtang but did not stop by his side. She went past him to the table, poured out a glass of red wine, and handed it to him.

Huo Jingtang glanced at the red wine in the glass warily, but eventually took it from her.

He sat down on the sofa and draped an arm across the back of it. He swirled the wine in his glass, a faint smile on his face. “I wonder what Director Xu wants to discuss with me?”

“Of course, it is something to do with Vice President Huo’s interests. Like, Yunhai Entertainment... Or the right to inherit the Huo family business...”

Xu Xinrou sat down beside him, clinked her glass with his, then drank her wine in one go to show her sincerity.

Huo Jingtang’s interest was immediately piqued. He curved his lips into a smile, then tipped his head back and downed his wine, too. Soon after his full glass of wine reached his stomach, he felt something stirring within him and his body temperature began to rise.

His eyes grew dark. He said bluntly, “So you’ve conspired with your father and drugged me. It seems that this is not just a simple business meeting!”

Xu Xinrou smiled with seductive confidence and smoothed her long hair. “You’re really smart, Vice President Huo. You’ve seen right through us. To tell you the truth, I was the one who asked my father to make an appointment with you.”

“You wanted an appointment with me?”

“Yes, I’ve always admired you, Vice President Huo.” Xu Xinrou leaned back on the sofa in an especially suggestive pose. “A handsome and sturdy and charming man like you—who doesn’t love a man like that?”

Huo Jingtang’s ego swelled upon hearing that. He held Xu Xinrou’s chin and asked, “Don’t you have Chu Yuhe?”

Xu Xinrou looked at him with wide, innocent eyes. “I’ve broken up with him. It’s just that I haven’t announced the news.”

“What are you after?”

Huo Jingtang was not so foolish as to fall for Xu Xinrou’s tricks.

Xu Xinrou put on a pitiful look, her red lips parted slightly. “I heard that you wanted to become the Huo family heir. I only wanted to help you seize what is rightfully yours.”

Huo Jingtang snorted, “You’re willing to help me? I don’t believe you’re doing it out of good will.”

“I have my conditions, of course.”

Xu Xinrou decided not to cover up too much of her intentions in front of Huo Jingtang. She knew what kind of person Huo Jingtang was and when it came to dealing with a dangerous man like him, it was best to come clean with everything.

“What?” Huo Jingtang asked with interest, releasing her.

“By helping you, I’m also helping myself. If I manage to help you become the Huo family heir, then you have to do two things for me: first, after taking charge of Yunhai, you have to sign me under your company.”

Huo Jingtang repeatedly looked Xu Xinrou up and down. He could see the burning ambition in her seductive eyes.

Chapter 402 - Kissed Him

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

He was almost immediately convinced that this woman was just like him, too.

If she could give him a hand and help him seize his right to inherit his family business, signing her into Yunhai Entertainment would just be a trivial matter.

“That’s easy. And the second...?”

Xu Xinrou pursed her lips into a smile and reached out to tug at Huo Jingtang’s tie. “The second condition—you will marry me and make me Mrs. Huo.”

Huo Jingtang’s eyes darkened considerably at the second condition. He knew she had big ambitions, but he didn’t expect that she would actually ask him to marry her.

There was danger in his voice. “You think you’re qualified?”

Xu Xinrou already had a countermeasure in mind and continued to persuade him, “Whether I’m qualified or not, you still have the final say, but, don’t be too quick to criticize me. You’re after the title of the Huo family heir, and I’m after the title of Mrs. Huo. We can help each other.”

“...” Huo Jingtang fell into deep thought, seeming to be thinking about the deal. He was contemplating whether it was worth it or not.

“I heard that you’re pursuing the daughter of the Xue family, but I can tell that woman is definitely not suitable for you. If you marry her, she may not be able to help you get what you want.”

Xu Xinrou knew what he was concerned about. She reiterated to eliminate his wariness. “You can rest assured that I will not interfere with your affairs after our marriage. You can do whatever you want. After all, you’re not one to care about romance. It doesn’t matter to you who you marry, but why not marry the one who can bring you the most benefit?”

Indeed so!

Huo Jingtang had already given up Xue Yating. After Xue Yating had belittled him and harmed his male self-esteem, he no longer wanted to rely on the Xue family.

Right now, Xu Jinshan and Xu Xinrou had approached him. Huo Jingtang analyzed their background and capabilities. Although the Xu family was not as wealthy and powerful as the Xue family, Xu Xinrou definitely had more brains than Xue Yating.

Xu Xinrou was right. He didn’t need love. He only needed a good wife who could help him with his ambitions.

Xu Xinrou had fame and influence and she was clever and shrewd. She shared his principles. Huo Jingtang gave it careful thought, then decided to accept the deal.

He turned over and pinned Xu Xinrou onto the sofa, his voice deep, “You’re right. A wise bird chooses the tree it will nest on, and a wise vassal selects his lord he will serve. You’re wise to choose me, and I like smart and beautiful women.”

Seizing the moment, Xu Xinrou wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him.

She knew that she had succeeded.

She could imagine her future. Married to the most powerful man in the entertainment industry and carrying the extremely glamorous title of Mrs. Huo. She could have anything she wanted, even if it was the wind and the rain.

Xu Xiyan would be easy to deal with in the future and it would be simple as squashing an ant. As long as Xu Xinrou was in the entertainment circle, she would never let Xu Xiyan have a chance to stage a comeback.

After successfully hooking up with Huo Jingtang, Xu Xinrou thought of a way to get rid of that good-for-nothing, Chu Yuhe.

She used her daughter, Youyou, as a bargaining chip and forced Chu Yuhe to agree to break up with her, then had him transfer 10 percent of his shares to her daughter's name.

After breaking up with her, Chu Yuhe obeyed her requests and announced the news of their separation to the public first, then secretly transferred 10 percent of his shares to Youyou's name.

Apparently, Chu Yuhe was not that depressed after all this was done. On the contrary, he had gone back to his old ways and began to live a free and unrestrained lifestyle.

Losing Xu Xinrou was not an entirely bad thing for him. For instance, he could now openly date his new sweetheart, Li Yuning, and walk with his arm around her in public.

At the Memory Western Restaurant, Xu Xiyan, Xiao Yuqian, and Wandou had finished their meal. When they were about to leave, Chu Yuhe happened to enter the restaurant with Li Yuning.

Chapter 403 - Destroyed By Her

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan saw Chu Yuhe but she decided to pretend not to know him and walk past him.

Unfortunately, Chu Yuhe deliberately got in Xu Xiyan's way. She sensed trouble coming and told Xiao Yuqian and Wandou to wait for her in the car.

She was curious why Chu Yuhe had stopped her. What was he going to do with her?

Chu Yuhe wrapped an arm around Li Yuning's waist and quipped, "Eh? Isn't this the famous Jing Xi who is the talk of the town recently?"

"She's Jing Xi?"

Li Yuning came from a modeling background and had just joined Juxing. She was a beautiful woman with fair skin and long slender legs. She nestled against Chu Yuhe's chest and said in an ingratiating, cutesy voice, "President Chu, why do you seem to be interested in Miss Jing Xi?"

"How could I be? How could I be interested in a woman who doesn't have a pretty body and face? Babe, you're still my favorite! Don't worry, I'll definitely make you the shiniest superstar and I'll give you the best resources. I would do anything for you."

Chu Yuhe pulled Li Yuning closer to him by her waist. He wanted to show off to Xu Xiyan and make her realize that it was a big mistake to miss out on him.

He was only deliberately belittling Xu Xiyan so he could feel better himself. It was obvious that Xu Xiyan was sour grapes to him.

But in reality, as long as one was not blind, it was clear that Jing Xi's beauty was magnanimous and captivating. She was also more charismatic in person than she was on the news.

Although she was not a model, her figure was still better than one.

What Chu Yuhe had said was laughable. Xu Xiyan sneered at him, "Oh, it's you, President Chu! I heard that you've separated with Senior Xu. I'm really intrigued; weren't you the golden couple of the entertainment circle? I thought the love between the two of you could overcome all odds. How could you both just break up like that? Was it because Senior Xu cheated on you first? Or was it because you were caught red-handed frolicking with other women behind her back?" Xu Xiyan interviewed him as if she was an entertainment reporter.

"Jing Xi, enough of your nonsense! I've broken up peacefully with Xinrou. What's wrong with us pursuing our own lives?" Chu Yuhe said, displeased. He was taking an aggressive stance to salvage whatever remained of his male ego after Xu Xiyan had humiliated him.

"Oh, nothing wrong with that! After all, you've served your 'sentence' and you should reward yourself nicely."

It was Chu Yuhe who had personally told her in the first place that Xu Xinrou was watching his every move like a hawk, and he felt like a prisoner.

In the past two days, after the Y had announced the news of their separation, Chu Yuhe was already swaggering around town with his new sweetheart. He was behaving like a man who had just struck the jackpot and could not wait to celebrate.

After mocking Chu Yuhe, Xu Xiyan deliberately leaned in and spoke into Li Yuning's ear, "Here's a kind reminder for you: If you ever go to a motel with President Chu, remember to use a

condom. You don't want to get HIV or other such diseases from him. There's no cure for it."

Li Yuning: "..."

After listening to Xu Xiyan's words, Li Yuning no longer looked at Chu Yuhe the same way. She looked at him as though he were a carrier of an incurable disease, and she instinctively shook off his hand and kept her distance.

"Jing Xi, if you open your mouth one more time, I'll..." Chu Yuhe was furious, but he did not forget to appease Li Yuning. "Babe, please don't listen to her hogwash. She's deliberately making up nonsense about me."

Chu Yuhe tried to put his arms around Li Yuning's waist again but she smiled at him awkwardly. "I'm sorry, President Chu, I think we should talk another day. I have something up and I have to leave now. You guys take your time."

Li Yuning left in a hurry, and the start of Chu Yuhe's beautiful new life was destroyed by Xu Xiyan.

How infuriating!

Xu Xiyan was going to leave. Chu Yuhe immediately got in her way. He hissed through his teeth, "Xu Xiyan, if you dare to smear my reputation again, you better believe that I'll strangle you to death!"

Chapter 404 - A Preemptive Strike

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Can’t say whether you can even strangle me to death, but if you’re still not letting me go, I’m going to shout—Help! Someone molested me!”

At the same time Xu Xiyan shouted “help,” she quickly grabbed the back of his jacket and yanked it over his head, then pounded at him with her fist. “Stinking hooligan, you dare molest me...”

One by one, the busybodies in the restaurant turned their heads after hearing a girl scream for help.

They saw a girl beating up a hooligan. There were several men who could not just stand by and watch, and decided to come to her rescue, rushing over to bash up the hooligan.

Chu Yuhe’s head was covered by his own jacket and he could not see anything. He was punted to the ground by the group of men as they gave him a good wallop.

“Stop! Don’t beat me... I’m not a hooligan...”

Chu Yuhe staggered to his feet. His perfectly combed hair was now like a chicken nest and his dark suit was covered with messy footprints. He looked very wretched.

He wiped blood off his nose and yelled wide-eyed at them, “Can’t you see? I am the president of Juxing Entertainment and my surname is Chu! Do I look like a hooligan?”

In order to prove his identity, he had even flashed his gilded business card at them.

The group of men dispersed after Chu Yuhe yelled at them. He wanted to seize Xu Xiyan again, but she was nowhere to be found.

Every time Chu Yuhe met Xu Xiyan, bad luck would fall upon him. Chu Yuhe thought angrily, damn woman, she is simply the most cunning fox in the world!

Cursed woman!

Don't let me see you again, or else I'll make sure to teach you a good lesson next time!

Xu Xiyan had already long since fled, but she had managed to take a video of Chu Yuhe being beaten.

In order to prevent a certain someone from retaliating first, Xu Xiyan did not hesitate, and seized the chance for a preemptive strike. She sent the video to Wandou and wrote a short article about it, then told her to release it through various media channels.

In just one night, a scandal titled "President of Juxing Entertainment Molests Woman In Public, Mistaken and Beaten Up as a Hooligan by Passersby (Video Included)" had attracted many people's attention.

Those who had seen the video felt that Chu Yuhe was not "mistaken as a hooligan," but was literally a hooligan.

Long ago, since the scandal of Chu Yuhe's attempt to exploit Jing Xi, when he'd gotten his butthole wounded by her, Chu Yuhe's sophisticated and charming act had collapsed and his reputation had taken a nosedive.

[He broke up with Xu Xinrou just recently, and yet he was already fooling around with other women. This man should be dragged off for a castration!]

[Yes, he should be castrated!]

Somehow, Xu Xiyan has gotten herself into a habit of ruining the lives of scumbags and bitches who deserved it, and she would make sure that they were given a hard time.

As long as she exposed their ugly faces to the public, there would naturally be a large number of keyboard warriors who

would help her bash them to death.

After a long busy day, Xu Xiyan sent her daughter back to the Jing family house before returning to her apartment at Shengshi Yujing.

On one of the shelves of the crystal closet, she was surprised to find a gift box wrapped with floral silk.

Weird. It hadn't been there when she was preparing to leave that morning. How did it get there?

Could it be...

Thinking of a certain possibility, Xu Xiyan became a little excited and immediately unwrapped the gift box. There were two discs lying quietly at the bottom of the box.

She knew it. Huo Yunshen must've asked someone to put the gift box here!

Was this new album for her?

Great! She had been thinking of taking time off to go to the CD store to buy the album. But now, she didn't have to anymore!

Xu Xiyan picked up the uppermost album which was titled "Huoxu." She liked the picture printed on the disc; it was especially beautiful and it was the scenery of her and Mu Chenguang on the beach of Estan.

She looked inside the box and there was another disc with an ancient style image printed on it. Wow! It turned out to be the "Majestic Land" disc, and there were some words written and autographed by Huo Yunshen.

The words were: [Jing Xi, I wish you and Ye Xun a happy marriage and a joyous life together. From Ni Yun.]

Xu Xiyan's heart sunk. What did he mean by writing these words?

...

Chapter 405 - Finding Out The Truth

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Why had he wished her and Ye Xun a happy marriage and a joyous life out of the blue?

No, this was not right. She had already clearly explained her relationship with Ye Xun to him. Why was he still mistaken about her?

Why had he written such a sentence?

Xu Xiyan put down the disc and opened the crystal closet door. When she came into Huo Yunshen's apartment, she heard the sound of the door opening.

Xu Xiyan thought that Huo Yunshen had come back. Her heart immediately filling with glee, she rushed over to greet him.

Xu Xiyan did not take a good look at who was at the door when it opened and shouted loudly, "Mr. Huo!"

After clearly seeing who had entered, Xu Xiyan's smile froze on her face. How could it be Huo Sanyan?

It was over. It was already too late to hide.

Huo Sanyan had been startled by Xu Xiyan's sudden outburst at the door and her egg tart fell to the ground from her mouth. She watched it roll in a circle before dropping still on its side near Xu Xiyan's foot.

Huo Sanyan traced her gaze back upwards from the fallen egg tart and saw a beautiful looking woman.

It was a woman. There was really a woman in her brother's house.

Huo Sanyan had always suspected that her brother was hiding a woman. She had finally caught her red-handed today!

Astonished, Huo Sanyan came closer to Xu Xiyan as if she had found the greatest wonder of the world. She looked at Xu Xiyan's face carefully. Hmm, she looks familiar. Very familiar.

She quickly picked through her mind. Isn't this Jing Xi, the woman who caused a sensation in the entertainment circle with her scandals some time ago?

After recognizing her, Huo Sanyan said, "You're Jing Xi, aren't you? Am I right? Why are you in my brother's house? What are you doing here?"

Huo Sanyan knew that Huo Yunshen had gone abroad a while ago, and some time later, her parents had gone there too to bring him home because he got injured. She had heard that he had encountered a riot attack.

Huo Yunshen had been resting at home and there was no one living in his apartment in Shengshi Yujing at the moment. Armed with the knowledge of where Huo Yunshen had hidden the spare keys, Huo Sanyan had snuck here so she could live closer to Ye Xun.

"Hello, Miss Huo. I'm Jing Xi."

Since Xu Xiyan could not hide anymore, she could only greet Huo Sanyan and brace herself for disaster. "I'm Mr. Huo's private doctor and I've come to see him, but it seems that he is not here, so I'll be going now."

Xu Xiyan braced herself to be blamed, criticized and sworn at. She could imagine how much the Huo family disliked her.

Since Huo Yunshen's mother hated her so much, Huo Yunshen's sister must not be any different, and she would not even be accommodating. She decided it was best to look for an excuse and leave quickly.

Seeing that Xu Xiyan was about to leave, Huo Sanyan grabbed her in time, "Hey, Jing Xi! Wait! Don't be in a hurry!"

“Miss Huo, I...”

Huo Sanyan became ridiculously warm and friendly to her. She dragged Xu Xiyan over to the sofa and sat her down. “Jing Xi, let me ask you a question. Can you answer me truthfully?”

“I don’t know what you want to ask me about.”

“Erm... I want to know what your relationship with Young Master Ye is?”

“He is my second senior.” Xu Xiyan had already explained this before. Was there a problem?

“I know. Other than that?”

“He’s just that. Nothing more. What’s wrong?”

Huo Sanyan’s eyes were filled with puzzlement. “Are you sure? If you don’t have a special relationship with him, why did Young Master Ye provoke my brother? Not only did he insult him, but he also told him that the two of you are getting married. He said that you’re his girlfriend and that you’ll be his wife...?”

“What?!”

“You don’t know?”

Huo Sanyan told Xu Xiyan everything she had heard from her mother.

If Huo Sanyan had not come to talk to her, Xu Xiyan might not even know that it was Ye Xun who had actually done such a dirty and foolish deed.

...

Chapter 406 - Teaching Ye Xun A Lesson

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Back when Huo Yunshen was seriously injured, Ye Xun had not only refused to help her deliver food to Huo Yunshen, but had also told him a lot of harsh words.

How could Huo Yunshen, a sensitive man, not be upset?

How could he not be heartbroken?

No wonder Huo Yunshen had strangely written the words “I wish you and Ye Xun a happy marriage” on the disc he gave her. It turned out that it was all Ye Xun’s doing.

Huo Yunshen must’ve misunderstood. So that was why he no longer contacted her and distanced himself from her.

Right now, he must be really heartbroken. He must have retreated further into his shell!

Xu Xiyan was exploding with anger after learning the truth. She stormed out of the house, went over to apartment No. 104 and kicked at the door loudly.

Ye Xun opened the door and was pleasantly surprised to see her. His eyes sparkled. “Eh? Little Xixi, have you come to cook for me?”

“Ye Xun!” Xu Xiyan shouted at him.

She usually called him her second senior, but now that she was directly calling his name, it only meant that she was angry.

“What’s wrong?”

Ye Xun reached out to touch her forehead. Did she have a fever?

Xu Xiyan shoved his hand out of the way and said angrily, “Why did you do that?”

Ye Xun scratched his head, completely nonplussed. “What did I do?”

“Stop acting dumb! I know everything now! You didn’t get anyone to rescue Mr. Huo that night during the terrorist attack! And when I asked you to deliver the porridge to him that time, it turned out that you didn’t do it. Yes, not only you did not give it to him, but you also made up nonsense in front of him to upset him. Why did you make up the story that we’re getting married?”

Xu Xiyan’s hands were trembling and her chest was heaving up and down in anger. Her tears were welling up in her eyes as she stared at him hatefully.

Ye Xun was still unrepentant. “I just wanted him to give up on you and stop hanging onto you! With his special body condition, he’ll never give you happiness! You should wake up!”

“So what if his body is like that? Why do you have to humiliate him? Is his disability his fault? I don’t want you to say those kinds of words to him again!”

Xu Xiyan was extremely upset. Although the Ye Xun she knew was an irresponsible and carefree person, he still had a good character. But why must he do so many things that she couldn’t understand?

Was it because he loved her?

Did his love for her give him the excuse to harm Huo Yunshen?

If you love someone, shouldn’t you respect his or her choices and sincerely wish for them to be happy?

Furious that Xu Xiyan was still standing up for Huo Yunshen, Ye Xun snapped back at her, “Did I say anything wrong? He is really a cripple—”

Before he could say the word “cripple,” Xu Xiyan had raised her fist and punched him hard in his face.

Her punch was powerful. It had contained all her anger and sorrow. It was nothing like a simple slap.

Ye Xun’s head was thrown sideways by the punch. He staggered a few steps backward and hit the doorframe with his back.

He straightened himself and touched his painstricken face with a hand, then looked at Xu Xiyan, bewildered. “Little Xixi, you actually hit me...for him?”

“You only have yourself to blame. Have you even considered my feelings? I’ve always trusted you so much, but, what about you? Why do you want to interfere with your underhanded deeds?”

Xu Xiyan’s face was already soaked with tears. Tears of grievance ran down her cheeks and the hand that she had been clenching was shaking.

She didn’t want to beat anyone, especially not Ye Xun. He was her second senior, and he had been caring for her and her daughter for so many years. After all, she was in his debt for his great kindness.

“I did it because... it... it was all for you!”

Ye Xun was choking with anger. Although Xu Xiyan had punched him, he could not bring himself to punch her back. He could only bear it!

Chapter 407 - Don't Steal My Prince Charming

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“I’ve told you very clearly before. We’re impossible. Why do you still not understand? I’ll rather be single in this life than marry you. So let me tell you now, even if Huo Yunshen is disabled for life, I’m still staying with him!”

Ye Xun did not answer. He was fighting hard to keep his anger down.

How could he not understand?

He knew that Xu Xiyan didn’t like him—she didn’t love him. She did not have any special feelings towards him and she was only treating him as her senior, like her own elder brother.

But, he loved her!

It was because he loved her with all his heart. He didn’t want to see her take the wrong path to her doom.

Whenever he imagined her marrying the wheelchair-bound Huo Yunshen, Ye Xun’s heart would ache at the numerous injustices she had to suffer.

Even if she wanted to get married, she should at least find a normal man, then he would have peace of mind.

The air between them became tense. After a few moments of silence, Xu Xiyan wiped her tears and said to him calmly, “Second senior, you should go back to Estan. I don’t need your protection. From now on, you should refrain from doing anything that will disappoint me.”

Without looking at him, Xu Xiyan turned and left.

Ye Xun watched her disappear back into her apartment. Unable to vent the grief and anger he had accumulated, he could only slam a fist into the door.

Bang! The metal door let out a loud noise. Ye Xun's hand was wounded, and streaks of blood ran down the door.

When Xu Xiyan had turned her back on him, he had felt a sudden wave of fear in his heart.

Was Xu Xiyan not going to talk to him anymore?

After this incident, Xu Xiyan indeed ignored Ye Xun for a long time.

However, the punch from Xu Xiyan had given him a wakeup call. He was afraid that he and Xu Xiyan would not be friends anymore.

In order to redeem his junior sister, he had no choice but to put on a thick skin and do things that were beneath him to please her.

As long as Ye Xun was no longer a hindrance to her and Huo Yunshen, and as long he did not do anything to hurt Huo Yunshen, it was not impossible for her to forgive him.

She felt her heart aching as she thought of Huo Yunshen. She really hoped that she could still see him again. She had a lot to say to him personally.

...

Xu Xiyan officially joined the "Root of Evil" cast, and the production crew held a press conference especially for her.

The male lead actor, Liang Yusen, and the second male lead actor, Ma Haodong, were also invited to the event along with several other actors.

During the press conference, Xu Xiyan did not interact much with Liang Yusen; she had more interactions with Ma Haodong instead.

All the while, the production crew had deliberately been tying Ma Haodong and Jing Xi together and hyping them up, resulting in many fans who supported their coupling.

One of the reporters teased her, “Jing Xi, I heard that you and Ma Haodong have a very good private relationship. Is that true?”

The reporters thought that Jing Xi liked Ma Haodong. But they didn't expect Xu Xiyao to suddenly take hold of Ma Haodong's arm and laugh warmly at them, “Yes, my relationship with Haodong is especially good.”

“If you were to look for a life partner, would you consider Ma Haodong?” The reporter deliberately steered the topic towards her love life.

Xu Xiyao smiled and glanced over to Ma Haodong who was sitting next to her. He raised his eyebrows at her. He was probably worried that she was going to talk nonsense about their relationship in front of the reporters and their cameras. Wouldn't it be bad if she were to cause Xiao Yuqian to misunderstand him?

“I guess so. If only he looked like my type,” Xu Xiyao replied half-jokingly.

Ma Haodong deliberately came into the shot and made a funny face at the camera playfully. Xu Xiyao covered his face with a hand and shoved him away.

The reporter laughed and asked again, “Then, can you tell me...who is your type?”

Xu Xiyao pressed her lips into a smile. She was not going to miss such a good opportunity to confess. “Ni Yun, of course!”

Ma Haodong slid back into view again and chimed in, “Oh, me too. I like Ni Yun too.”

Xu Xiyao pushed his head away with her hand once again. “I said it first. Don't steal my prince charming.”

Chapter 408 - Finally Completed

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The two successfully completed the interview in a playful manner. After the press conference had ended, netizens began to ship Xu Xiyan and Ma Haodong together.

After officially joining the cast, Xu Xiyan began a tight and busy shooting schedule.

Xu Xiyan had planned to go to her prospective employer's house to discuss the job as a substitute violinist. But since her schedule was so full now, she could only postpone their appointment and focus on her filming.

One-third of the movie, "Root of Evil," had already been filmed during early production. But due to the incident with Huang Yanran, that one-third of the movie had to be reshot.

The editors did their best to keep whatever scenes were still usable. Those takes with Xu Xiyan as a substitute actor were mostly preserved, saving the production a lot of time and manpower.

Because the film was set to be released during the National Day Golden Week holiday, Xu Xiyan's schedule was very full during the reshooting period.

Every day, Xu Xiyan woke up early and worked from morning till night. After each day's shooting, she was so exhausted that she would immediately fall asleep on her bed when she got back home. She didn't even have time to spend with her daughter.

She had been working like crazy for the reshoot for half a month. It wasn't until the opening of the Olympic Games that the filming phase was finally complete, and the film was able to enter post-production.

Xu Xiyan took some time off to go to the hospital to settle her grandfather's hospitalization fees.

When Xu Xiyan got out of the hospital after settling the fees, she saw an ambulance parked at the main entrance of the emergency department. A group of medical staff was wheeling a patient through the main entrance.

Xu Xiyan's was surprised to see Huo Yunshen's mother, Chen Yunlu, following the ambulance staff as they rushed into the hospital.

A question came first thing to her mind: who was being admitted to the hospital?

Who had Chen Yunlu sent to the hospital?

Was it Huo Yunshen?

Xu Xiyan's heart sunk at that thought, her feet unconsciously steering her toward the emergency department. She would not have peace until she knew who the ambulance had sent to the hospital.

Xu Xiyan came near to the emergency room and saw Chen Yunlu, who was anxiously waiting outside the door, but Xu Xiyan did not rush up to her. After all, Chen Yunlu did not like her.

Instead, Xu Xiyan went to the nurse station and asked the nurse there. It turned out that the patient who had been sent into the emergency room was Chen Yunlu's husband, Huo Zhen. It seemed that he'd had a stroke.

The news left Xu Xiyan feeling conflicted, and she wondered uneasily whether Huo Yunshen knew about his father's sudden stroke.

Huo Yunshen had been informed along with his sisters and they were all rushing to the hospital now.

Xu Xiyao didn't have to wait long before seeing them arriving at the hospital. Huo Sanyan was the first to rush into the emergency room. She was then followed by Huo Yunshen's eldest sister Huo Yijing with her son Lu Qiancheng.

The last one to arrive was Huo Yunshen.

An electric wheelchair came through the corridor and Xu Xiyao fixed her eyes on the man sitting in it. She had not seen him for a long time, since he'd been injured back in Estante.

He must've recovered from his injuries now, right?

Xu Xiyao had been staying where she was because she wanted to catch a glimpse of him. Now that she had finally seen him, her eyes did not leave Huo Yunshen.

She noticed that he was wearing a simple shirt and a pair of black casual trousers. He must've been in a hurry if he had dressed so simply.

After not seeing him for a long time, he had become a lot thinner. His thick and dark eyebrows were furrowed and his thin lips were pressed tightly together. She could see that he must have been really worried about his father's condition.

His heart was entirely focused on the man in the operating room. When he passed by her, he did not notice her presence.

Xu Xiyao was standing in a corner where she could not be easily seen. She watched him pass her by and let her gaze follow him until he was united with his mother and his sisters.

His mother and sisters were weeping sadly. Huo Yunshen could only keep comforting them, though his grief was no less than theirs.

Chapter 409 - Gloating Inside

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

As the only son in the family, Huo Yunshen had to be strong.

It was very depressing to see a loved one hanging uncertainly near the edge of life and death in an operating room.

If it was possible, Xu Xiyan wished to stand by Huo Yunshen's side and give him the comfort he needed.

Even so, she was not supposed to stay here too long. Xu Xiyan only stayed for a little while before leaving the emergency department.

She was only there to secretly catch a glimpse of him anyway, and she was glad to see him well.

At the moment she could only pray for his father silently. She prayed that he would be fine so Huo Yunshen would not be too distraught.

Outside the emergency room, Huo Yunshen suddenly turned around to look at the end of the corridor, but only saw a vague shape of someone's back that quickly disappeared around the corner.

That back looked so familiar. It really seemed like Xu Xiyan.

But maybe he was mistaken. How could Xu Xiyan be here?

At this time, Huo Yunshen didn't have the energy to think about other matters. He only hoped that his father would come out of the operating room quickly.

Not long after, Huo Jingtang came, having received the news as well. He was full of worry as he asked about his uncle's situation, then went over to comfort his aunt kindly. After that, he accompanied Huo Yunshen and his sisters and waited for the doctor's news about Huo Zhen.

After a few hours, the lights in the operating room went out. The doctor came out and the Huo family members immediately went up to him to ask about the situation.

The doctor shook his head and said that the patient had missed the golden hour for the best chance of treatment. Although the operation had been successful, the patient was still in a deep coma. The chance of waking up was small and the situation was not very optimistic.

After listening to the doctor's words, Chen Yunlu became very distraught and immediately fainted.

Huo Sanyan and Huo Yijing caught their mother and stopped her from falling over. They were also crying uncontrollably at the news.

Huo Yunshen was sitting in his wheelchair with his head lowered, feeling great pain in his heart. The thought of his father not waking up again suffocated him with pain.

Huo Jingtang, who was next to him, also showed grief on his face, but he was gloating inside.

Huo Zhen's sudden illness meant that the heavy responsibility of running the Huo Group would definitely fall upon his father, Huo Lin's, shoulders. To him, this was another big step closer to seizing power over the Huo family.

After Huo Zhen was transferred to the ICU ward, Huo Yunshen had been waiting outside the ward. He had told his eldest and third sister to take their mother home for a rest and also told them to keep this a secret from their grandfather, lest he suffers another blow.

Unfortunately, someone had to stir up a storm. The first thing Huo Jingtang did after returning to the Huo family mansion was to tell Huo Xun about Huo Zhen's stroke and coma.

Huo Xun was old and weak. When he heard about this incident, he was so distraught that he fell very ill. At this time, it was one misfortune after another for the Huo family.

For Huo Jingtang, good times were coming. The three most important members of the Huo family were not able to manage the group company. At the moment, all affairs were being taken care of by Huo Jingtang and his father.

That evening, in a private apartment, Huo Jingtang and Xu Xinrou lay together in bed, gasping for their breaths after a round of passionate lovemaking.

Huo Jingtang twirled a finger through Xu Xinrou's hair and said affectionately to her, "I'm curious. How did you manage to upset Huo Zhen?"

Xu Xinrou lifted a fair-skinned arm and placed her hand onto Huo Jingtang's shoulder, glancing at him with her alluring eyes. "How I managed to upset him is not of your concern. What matters most is the result. Once Huo Zhen falls, you will have your chance, isn't that right?"

It was true that Huo Zhen's stroke was Xu Xinrou's doing.

It didn't take her much effort to do so. All she did was get some evidence about Huo Zhen and Jing Ruyue's scandal from her father and used them to anger Huo Zhen.

"Yes, my uncle's life is hanging in the balance and the news was a great blow to my grandfather. We've killed two birds with one stone. But, I'm worried. What if my uncle wakes up? What should I do?"

...

Chapter 410 - You'll Get A Cut

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Don’t worry, even if he does wake up, he wouldn’t dare blame it on me,” Xu Xinrou said. “You should focus on preparing for the extraordinary general meeting.”

“You’ve really helped me a lot this time, babe. How could I ever repay you?” Huo Jingtang said.

Xu Xinrou did not say anything and extended her white left hand. The only thing left on it was a piece of jewelry on her ring finger.

Huo Jingtang wasn’t stupid, he knew what she wanted.

“Fret not, my dear,” Huo Jingtang said as he kissed her hand. “You’ll get a cut of the share when I become the CEO of Yunhai Entertainment.”

Xu Xinrou’s red lips curled up as she smiled beautifully. Charmed by her beauty, Huo Jingtang rolled over and pinned her beneath him.

With Xu Xinrou’s help, Huo Jingtang could hit two birds with one stone. He believed that it wouldn’t be long before he could become the new head of the Huo family.

The next step for him to take would be to hold the extraordinary general meeting and dismiss Huo Yunshen as the CEO of Yunhai Entertainment.

Since he’d already bought off most of the company’s higher-ups, he was sure that he’d definitely get the votes he needed.

While Huo Jingtang was plotting to take over the company, Huo Yunshen was busy running in and out of the hospital worried about his family.

Yi Xiao had reported every movement Huo Jingtang made during Huo Yunshen's absence, yet he did not take any actions against his cousin.

The only thing that mattered to him at the moment was the well-being of his father and grandfather.

Huo Yunshen was about to return home that evening when Huo Jingtang arrived at the hospital.

"Yunshen, how's uncle? Is he better?" Huo Jingtang asked.

"He's still the same," Huo Yunshen said while shaking his head.

"How 'bout grandpa?"

"Look for yourself, I'll take my leave first."

Huo Yunshen was spent after spending a few sleepless nights in the hospital. A messy beard began to grow wildly on his thin jaw, while veins began to appear in his eyes.

What he needed then was a shower and a good rest.

"Oh," Huo Yunshen's voice rang again after rolling himself towards the door for a couple of meters. "Thank you for taking care of everything while I'm gone. Sorry for throwing everything on your shoulders so suddenly."

"Don't worry about it," Huo Jingtang smiled. "It's my job."

Huo Yunshen raised his head and looked at Huo Jingtang as he remained silent. He turned his wheelchair and was about to leave.

"Wait," Huo Jingtang stopped him. "Let me drive you home."

In truth, Huo Jingtang was at the hospital because he wanted to say something important to Huo Yunshen.

"All right, can you take me back to Shengshi Yujing?"

When they arrived at Shengshi Yujing, Huo Jingtang pushed Huo Yunshen back into his house. Xu Xiyan came back just a

few seconds after them and noticed them.

She was surprised to see Huo Yunshen back home, and what was more, Huo Jingtang was with him.

Xu Xiyan waited for them to go into Room 101 before going back into her house.

Huo Jingtang noticed a pair of lady slippers while he was taking off his shoes but did not make any comments about it.

Huo Yunshen rolled himself into the living room and turned to look at his cousin.

“I heard that you’ve asked for an extraordinary general meeting tomorrow. Why?”

Chapter 411 - Became Ruthless

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Jingtang was stunned for a second as he looked at Huo Yunshen in his wheelchair. Even if he looked messy, his eyes were still as sharp as ever.

Enough to make people shake in fear.

“I was about to talk to you about it,” Huo Jingtang smiled as he tried to regain his composure. “A new CEO will be appointed in tomorrow’s meeting.”

It was what Huo Yunshen had expected, but he’d never thought he’d hear it from Huo Jingtang’s mouth.

“You want Yunhai Entertainment?” Huo Yunshen asked, as he felt a pain in his heart.

“That’s right,” Huo Jingtang smiled without hiding his ambition any further. “I’m the oldest among our generation, by right it should be mine.”

“Why didn’t you talk to me about it first?” Huo Yunshen asked. “I’m still the CEO of the company!”

“A position that you’re about to lose.” Huo Jingtang smirked as he put his hands in his pockets. “I’ve been taking care of the whole company ever since you got into the accident. The position that you’re holding onto is just a decoration, nothing more.”

Huo Yunshen grasped the handles of his wheelchair tightly as he felt a chill run down his spine. It was as if the person in front of him was a total stranger.

Is this the person who I've looked up to? The person whom I thought of as my own brother? What changed him?

Huo Yunshen felt as if his heart was being stabbed by a knife. He never would've thought that the Huo family would fight amongst themselves for profit.

"I've always thought of you as my real brother, and I even thought you looked at me the same way, too," Huo Yunshen said. "I still remember that time when you saved me from drowning...you weren't this ruthless back then..."

Huo Yunshen was still grateful to him for saving him. That was why he'd always respected Huo Jingtang.

Yet the person standing in front of him was completely different. He'd become a person driven by money.

"I became like this because of you! I would have never changed if you had not robbed me of everything!"

"But I never took anything away from you!"

"Yes, you might not have," Huo Jingtang said sarcastically.

"But everyone would still hand everything to you. That's not fair! I wouldn't have minded if you were completely healthy, but do you think I will stand still while a crippled person like you takes over the company?"

Huo Yunshen lowered his head and looked at his own legs.

Huo Jingtang's each and every sentence was like a knife stabbing his heart.

He was in pain.

Not because of his father's and grandfather's condition, but also of Huo Jingtang's betrayal when Huo Yunshen needed him the most.

"This is the report I got from Professor Qin," Huo Jingtang said as he noticed his words were taking effect. He threw a file in front of Huo Yunshen's legs. "It says that you'll never be able to stand again."

Huo Yunshen picked the report up with his shaking hand and read the file. One glance at the words written on it was enough

to plunge his heart into despair.

I'll never be able to stand again...

Handling the report to him was like handing him a death sentence.

Chapter 412 - Pushed Him into Despair

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen tried to control his emotions as he looked up with his reddened eyes.

“I thought you’d at least help me out since we’re brothers...”
Huo Yunshen said with a saddened tone.

Brothers? Huo Jingtang smirked in his head. I’ve never once thought of you as my own brother!

“You’re just too naïve!” Huo Jingtang shouted. “We were born to be rivals! It’s either you or me who’ll take over the whole family.”

Huo Jingtang walked to Huo Yunshen’s side and patted him on his shoulder.

“I’ll take good care of our family and the company,” Huo Jingtang said, as if trying to comfort Huo Yunshen. “I’ll prove to the world that you’re no better than me. And you don’t have to worry about the rest of your life, just sign this paper and I’ll make sure you get to enjoy a quiet life.”

There was another meaning behind Huo Jingtang’s final sentence. He meant that if Huo Yunshen did not sign the paper, he would make Huo Yunshen’s remaining life miserable.

Huo Jingtang would not take Huo Yunshen’s life away, but he would make sure that Huo Yunshen lived a painful life.

“Take your time to consider my offer,” Huo Jingtang said as he was not in a hurry for Huo Yunshen to sign it. “Send me the paper when you’ve signed it. I’ll take my leave.”

Huo Jingtang turned and put on his shoe.

“I’ve always wanted to ask you something,” Huo Yunshen suddenly said just as Huo Jingtang was about to step outside. “Were you involved in the accident that cost me my legs five years ago?”

Huo Jingtang could feel a chill down his spine as he turned his head back slowly and looked at Huo Yunshen in disbelief.

For just an instant, he felt like someone was choking him, making it hard to breathe.

“What are you talking about? Are you suspecting me?” Huo Jingtang smiled unnaturally. “I would never resort to such violence! You have to believe me!”

How am I supposed to believe you? Huo Yunshen scolded in his head. You better not let me find anything that could tie you to the accident!

“I’ll give you my answer tomorrow,” Huo Yunshen said as he turned, leaving Huo Jingtang at the door looking at his lonely back.

Huo Jingtang watched until Huo Yunshen went into his room before he let out a sigh of relief.

Why would he suddenly ask about the accident? Did he find something out? Impossible, all of the evidence has been taken care of, there’s no way that he could find anything.

After Huo Yunshen heard the door closed, all of his emotions were expressed all at once.

Even a person who was strong in front of everyone else has a weak side.

He raised his head as he closed his eyes in pain.

His hands were gripping his legs as they shook wildly.

He was hurt, he was in utter despair.

He wondered why God would put him in such a challenging situation.

God had taken away his legs and his confidence, forcing him to live in pain for the rest of his life.

He'd lost the woman he loved the most, and had no courage to tell her his true feelings.

And just when his father and grandfather had fallen ill, the cousin that he'd looked up to betrayed him and pushed him into further despair.

There was even evidence that made him suspect Huo Jingtang was the person responsible for the accident that took his legs away five years ago.

He couldn't believe that Huo Jingtang would be the person to take his life away from him.

He opened his eyes as his heart was filled with despair and rage. He extended his arm and threw everything on the table to the ground.

Chapter 413 - It Hurt Her Too

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The ceramics and glassware that were on the table fell onto the ground and broke into many pieces.

It was as if Huo Yunshen was possessed as he grabbed a baseball bat and smashed every piece of furniture in his house.

Everything that he could see was destroyed by him.

He could only release all his anger and pain through crushing things.

As he took his final swing, he used too much strength and fell from his wheelchair.

Landing himself on the glasses that he had just broke, blood began to drip from his knee and palm.

He sat on the ground as he ignored the bleeding. He just sat there, spacing out and in a total mess.

It was as if Huo Jingtang's words had crushed him completely.

There's no meaning in living anymore... Huo Yunshen thought. So what if I have the world's strongest mercenary group?

The noise from Room 101 finally stopped.

Xu Xiyan was standing on the other side of the crystal door. She'd heard everything that had happened in Room 101.

The only thing she'd never expected was for Huo Jingtang to pressure Huo Yunshen when Huo Zhen and Huo Xun were lying on their death beds.

She'd never thought that the person Huo Yunshen has been looking up to as a hero would become such a demon.

Xu Xiyan understood what Huo Yunshen was feeling at the moment. The feeling of being betrayed by the person you trusted...she'd already felt it five years ago.

The feeling was more painful than swallowing the deadliest poison in the world.

She had heard the frustration Huo Yunshen had shown after Huo Jingtang had left.

He had been pushed to his limit and was already broken inside out.

That was the reason Xu Xiyan could only think of for such a warm and gentle person to show such anger.

Xu Xiyan was worried about him and wanted to open the door, but she was also worried that her showing up would hurt his pride.

The noise of Huo Yunshen trashing his home finally stopped. Everything went back to being quiet as Xu Xiyan wondered what had happened to Huo Yunshen.

After a few seconds of hesitation, Xu Xiyan finally decided to check up on him.

She opened the door, and what greeted her was a house that was trashed.

She walked into Room 101 and looked for Huo Yunshen.

There he was, sitting on the ground beside his wheelchair.

He had one hand on the ground and his head was lowered. The white ceramics that were broken by him had been stained red by his blood.

His broad shoulders were slightly shaking.

Is he crying? Xu Xiyan asked in her heart. I can't even bring myself to imagine what he's going through right now... All his desperation and sadness...

It was as if her heart had also been stabbed. As she looked at the man she loved the most sitting on the ground in despair, she found it hard to breathe.

That was the love she had for him.

She walked towards him as she tried to avoid stepping on the glass.

Huo Yunshen heard her footsteps and suddenly raised his head. His eyes widened as he saw who the footsteps belonged to.

Why is she here?

Chapter 414 - She Kissed Him

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen had intentionally chosen to come back when the sun was still up, when Xu Xiyan wouldn't be home.

He didn't want her to see the side of him that he was showing at that moment.

He raised his hand and tried to wipe his tears, but instead left a trail of blood on his face. He'd forgotten that his hand was already drenched in blood.

"Don't! Leave me alone!" Huo Yunshen shouted as he saw Xu Xiyan was closing in on him.

He tried to block his face with his arm. He was trying to hide his crying face, it was the only side of him that he did not want Xu Xiyan to see.

"Please, let me take a look at you," Xu Xiyan said as she could feel a pain in her heart.

The man that used to be cold and emotionless was like a hurt beast, lying on the ground shaking in fear.

"I don't need your help! Leave me the f*ck alone!" Huo Yunshen shouted with all of his heart. It was filled with sadness and uneasiness.

He was so desperate to hide from her that he'd chosen to curse at her.

Xu Xiyan felt another pain in her heart as tears began to fill her eyes.

Did I step on his pride again? How am I supposed to leave him when he's so helpless now?

Huo Yunshen saw that Xu Xiyan wasn't about to leave and he tried to get back up onto his wheelchair to hide his embarrassment.

Yet as he tried to push himself up, the broken glass on the ground dug itself into his palm.

It was only then when he could feel the pain.

He had no idea what to do anymore.

He sat on the ground without moving an inch.

Xu Xiyan's face was already covered in tears, even though she tried her best to hold them back.

She quickly dropped in front of him and held him up by his shoulders as she looked straight into his eyes.

Their eyes met, eyes that were filled with tears.

"I've never once pitied you, Mr. Huo," Xu Xiyan said. Only love...

She wanted to prove herself by actions and not words.

The feelings that she had for Huo Yunshen weren't compassion or pity. It was pure love.

She pulled his face towards her own and kissed him.

Her salty saliva flowed down Huo Yunshen's lips. It was filled with pain.

The sudden kiss made Huo Yunshen's mind go blank. He held his hands in the air and had no idea what to do.

The kiss wasn't deep; she'd only pushed her lips against his as they slowly rubbed against each other.

It was soft as if his mother was holding him when he was little.

Huo Yunshen remained stunned, even after Xu Xiyan pulled her lips away. It was as if the kiss had fried his brain.

It was as if he was dreaming.

Did she just kiss me? Did Xu Xiyan just kiss me?

Xu Xiyan's tears had evaporated from the heat on her face. Even if she'd been trying to hold herself back, telling herself not to act rashly, she'd still kissed the man she loved, as she couldn't hold her feelings back any further.

What now?

Chapter 415 - Not Giving Him a Chance to Say No

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Should I have not done that? Will he get angry?

“I finished my job earlier today, I never thought you would come back today.” Xu Xiyan smiled awkwardly as she put her hand behind her head. She was worried that Huo Yunshen would scold her.

“Jing Xi, you...” Huo Yunshen paused. The kiss from Xu Xiyan was like a wake-up call, he wasn't as depressed as he was before.

“Hey, is your hand cut?” Xu Xiyan smiled, not giving Huo Yunshen a chance to finish his sentence. “You have to get it treated. Come, I'll help you up.”

“Just leave me alone,” Huo Yunshen said as he pushed her hands away. He did not want to trouble her.

“There's no way I'll do that,” Xu Xiyan said. “I'm still your personal assistant, and I still owe you money. I'll be in debt to you until I've repaid everything.”

Xu Xiyan used her debt as an excuse to shut Huo Yunshen up.

Huo Yunshen could only look at her speechlessly. His mind was in turmoil, as many things were going through it.

He thought that he could never see her again, and yet she was right in front of him worrying about him, and she'd even kissed him.

He was happy, yet sad. He was glad that the contract was still in place, but what worried him was that Xu Xiyan might be

back only because of the contract and nothing more.

“Here, try and stand,” Xu Xiyan said as she pulled Huo Yunshen’s hand under her shoulder.

He tried, but he couldn’t get up, as his hands were hurt and his body was numb from staying on the floor for quite some time.

Xu Xiyan did not give up and pushed him up with all her strength.

“Come, you can lie on me,” Xu Xiyan said while she turned and bent over. “I’ll carry you to your bed.”

“You don’t have to do that!” Huo Yunshen refused.

There was no way he would let himself be carried by a girl.

“Come on, I have the strength, believe me,” Xu Xiyan insisted. “You have to get your wounds treated immediately, or they might get infected.”

“...” Huo Yunshen looked at her back but still refused to get on it.

Xu Xiyan knew that he would never get on her back and pulled his arms towards her until he was leaning on her. She pushed him off the floor and walked towards the couch.

“Let me down!” Huo Yunshen said. He’d never thought that Xu Xiyan would carry him by force.

He scolded himself, as he was not as light as a feather. He was worried that he might hurt her as he lay on her soft and thin back.

Xu Xiyan knew what kind of person Huo Yunshen was. She had to be more persistent or else Huo Yunshen would never listen to her.

As the 190 centimeters Huo Yunshen lay on the 170 centimeters Xu Xiyan, the height, and weight differences were big. Xu Xiyan almost stumbled a few times on their way to the couch, but finally got there.

Chapter 416 - Too Close

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan let Huo Yunshen sit on the couch as she went to fetch the first aid box.

“Give me your hands,” Xu Xiyan said as she kneeled in front of him and looked at him with her head up. She could clearly see a hint of tears under Huo Yunshen’s eyes.

Huo Yunshen tried to avoid his gaze. He was still wondering whether he was in a dream or not.

His heart was hit with mixed feelings, happy, sad, but the thing he wanted most at that moment was not to break the calmness that he was feeling.

Xu Xiyan took Huo Yunshen’s hands and pulled them towards her.

His hands were covered in blood and shrapnel from the glass. She could feel her heart being stabbed once again.

What would he do if I wasn’t here today... Would he just sit there and let himself bleed dry?

Xu Xiyan frowned and bit her lips. She took out a pair of tweezers and plucked the glass away gently.

Huo Yunshen looked at her, his eyebrows frowning as she picked the glass out of his hand.

Xu Xiyan took out a cotton bud and dabbed it in disinfectant after she’d removed all the glasses from his hands.

“This might hurt,” Xu Xiyan warned.

“Okay.”

Even with her warning, Huo Yunshen still shook from the pain when the disinfectant went into his wounds.

“Just blow on it if it hurts,” Xu Xiyan suggested as she blew on his palm.

“...” Huo Yunshen was trying to hold back his laughter. Is she treating me as a child? Do I really look that weak right now?

Yet, it was as if the warm wind that she blew from his mouth had magic in it as the pain started to fade.

After she'd cleaned the blood off his hands, deep wounds could clearly be seen in his palms.

She applied medicine on his hands and wrapped them up like huge oranges.

Xu Xiyan did that on purpose. With his hands wrapped up tightly, he couldn't do anything on his own, even control his wheelchair. She'd decided to take care of him.

Xu Xiyan also noticed that his knees were bleeding, staining his grey pants red.

“Hey, are your knees hurt, too? Take off your pants and let me see,” Xu Xiyan ordered.

Xu Xiyan was so worried about him that she did not care about how weird it sounded and tried to unbuckle his belt.

“It's okay, I'm fine,” Huo Yunshen said as he stopped her. He was embarrassed by the fact that a girl that has no intimate relationship with him was about to help him undress.

“What do you mean you're okay? You're bleeding!” Xu Xiyan said. “If you don't let me check, then I'll have to carry you to the hospital.”

“You don't need to do that,” Huo Yunshen said instantly.

“Then stay still and be a good boy,” Xu Xiyan smiled.

“...” Huo Yunshen was already speechless on how weird their relationship was. It was like he was the girl and Xu Xiyan was the man.

Chapter 417 - He Could Feel His Legs

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan knew Huo Yunshen viewed his pride highly and did not take off his pants completely. She pulled them down until they stayed under his knees.

His knees had also been scratched by the broken glass, as deep wounds appeared on them.

Xu Xiyan remained quiet as she started to take care of his wounds. Just as the disinfectant came in touch with the wounds, Xu Xiyan noticed that his legs were shaking a little.

“Mr. Huo, does it hurt?” Xu Xiyan asked in surprise.

“Yeah, just a little,” Huo Yunshen replied not thinking about the question much as he had his whole attention on her.

“Really? This is great news!” Xu Xiyan shouted, like she’d just discover a huge secret. “Could it be that your legs are regaining their ability to feel?”

“Ability to feel?” Huo Yunshen gasped as he lowered his head and looked at his legs. “Jing Xi, try putting some disinfectant on them again!”

Xu Xiyan dripped a few drops on a wound, and Huo Yunshen did indeed feel the pain.

“Jing Xi!” Huo Yunshen shouted in happiness as he tried to grab her hand with his bandaged hands. “I can feel it! I can feel the pain!”

“This is great! This means that your legs are recovering!” Xu Xiyan said. “Do you still remember how you saved me when

we were in Estan? You stood up and jumped after me!”

That was something Huo Yunshen had never thought about.

Just like when he'd saved Ying Bao, he did something that he shouldn't have been able to do.

It was as if a light had shone through the darkness that Huo Yunshen had been pushed into.

Huo Yunshen had no idea how to comprehend the sudden change in his own emotions and could only look into Xu Xiyan's eyes excitedly.

But the excitement only lasted for a few seconds as he went into despair.

“But it's impossible,” he said as he shook his head. “The report is out. I have no chance of recovering.”

“Who told you that it's impossible?” Xu Xiyan said as she grabbed his hands. “I'm here to tell you that you still have hope, that you can still stand. Look at this.”

Xu Xiyan put down the disinfectant and took out a file.

It was the same file that Huo Jingtang had shown him.

“I've seen it,” Huo Yunshen said without looking at its contents. “It says that I have zero chance of recovering.”

“Look again,” Xu Xiyan said and pointed to the number. “Right here.”

Huo Yunshen focused his eyes on where Xu Xiyan had pointed. The results were different. The report had shown that his bones and nerves were recovering perfectly and that he had an 80% chance for his legs to fully recover.

“What... How?” Huo Yunshen asked in disbelief. Why are there two almost identical reports, both signed by Qin Kun?

“Let me tell you the truth,” Xu Xiyan explained. “This report that I'm holding is the real report, the one that Huo Jingtang gave you is a fake.”

Chapter 418 - The Truth

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“A fake?” Huo Yunshen asked.

Xu Xiyan told Huo Yunshen everything that she'd planned to, since she had no reason to hide it anymore.

She told him that she'd found out by accident that Huo Jingtang was trying to use Qin Kun to poison him for power over the company.

He only realized how close he was to danger after Xu Xiyan had told him the story.

He could feel a chill running down his spine as his heart was filled with sadness.

The brother that he'd believed in had been plotting to take over his position long before he'd noticed it.

It broke his heart.

But in the midst of sadness, he was thankful for Xu Xiyan, for her clever wits.

“Jing Xi, I really thank you from the bottom of my heart...”

“You don't have to thank me, I'm willing to do anything for you,” Xu Xiyan said as she shook her head and continued to tend to his wounds.

“But I thought you were about to marry Ye Xun?” Huo Yunshen asked. “I don't want to get in your way.”

“Seriously?” Xu Xiyan laughed. “Are you going to believe everything he says? When did I say I was going to marry him?”

“Wait, what?” Huo Yunshen gasped in surprise. Did they fight?

“You must be mistaken,” Xu Xiyan explained. “There’s no way I’m going to marry him, ever. I don’t even love him. The things he said when we were in Estan were just to toy with you.”

It’s all a mistake? Was Ye Xun just trying to toy with me?

“But I heard you say that you are his girlfriend from the recording.”

Xu Xiyan stopped what she was doing and finally realized what was going on.

She cursed Ye Xun in her heart over a hundred times.

She was just trying to get past the security. She’d never thought that Ye Xun would record that and show it to Huo Yunshen.

“That’s just a joke, don’t believe everything you hear,” Xu Xiyan quickly explained. “He just doesn’t want us to be together.”

Ye Xun doesn’t want us to be together? Then does that mean Jing Xi wants to be together with me? Even though I’m... in a wheelchair?

“But... my legs... I’m scared that I might trouble you for the rest of your life... since I can’t...”

The sadness and self-blame could be heard in Huo Yunshen’s voice.

He had no confidence in winning over Xu Xiyan’s heart, and he did not want to be a burden to her.

Xu Xiyan was trying to hold back and wait for her prince charming to confess his feelings. But she’d finally realize that a person like him who was in a unique situation would never do so.

She’d finally realized that she had to take the initiative, that there was nothing for the girl to confess first.

“Mr. Huo,” Xu Xiyan said as she placed her palm on his chest lightly. “Do you still want to know what I’m about to tell you about when we were in Estan before the accident happened?”

Chapter 419 - A Romantic Confession

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“What?” Huo Yunshen asked, as he was curious from the beginning.

“I love you,” Xu Xiyan said. “That’s what I wanted to tell you. I’ve loved you ever since we met. Only you.”

“...” Huo Yunshen was stunned and did not know how to react. Did she just say she loves me? It was never a one-sided affection?

He found himself unable to speak as the happiness came too suddenly.

“You’re not allowed to give up on yourself,” Xu Xiyan said, holding his hands. “I don’t care about your legs. What I want is the person you are, that’s the most important thing. Even if you can never walk for the rest of your life, I’m willing to act as your walking cane. Wherever you go, I’ll follow.”

Xu Xiyan raised her head and looked at him gently with eyes filled with love.

The sincerity and the warmth in her words...it was the most touching thing that he had ever heard.

Huo Yunshen could feel his heart skip a beat.

It was Xu Xiyan who had saved him when he was in his darkest moment, she’d given him confidence and the faith to live on.

She was like the warm sun, showing a path for him.

The heart that had been pushed into despair was pulled back by her as it began to beat wildly.

“Hey,” Xu Xiyao nudged as Huo Yunshen remained silent.
“Aren’t you going to say anything, even after I’ve confessed? Don’t forget, you already took my first time five years ago. You’ll have to take up the responsibility.”

She held his hands up, vowing to never let them go.

Tears were filling Huo Yunshen’s eyes. He turned his hands and grabbed hers as if he was holding the most treasured possession that he’d ever had.

“I will, I will take that responsibility,” Huo Yunshen said.

His deep voice was still attracting, like he was tickling her heart.

There were many more things that he wanted to tell her.

He wanted to thank her too.

He wanted to thank her for choosing him even when he was imperfect.

For a person that God had abandoned, he was lucky to have met her.

Jing Xi... I will take care of you for the rest of my life... Huo Yunshen vowed. As long as you remain with me, I’ll never let you go... Always...

Xu Xiyao smiled as soon as she heard his reply.

His reply represented a promise that would never be broken.

Huo Yunshen could finally feel the sweetness of life after he’d been living in darkness. It was the love that he’d longed for.

Love could be straightforward. It didn’t need complicated gifts, nor showing off in front of others. It doesn’t even need to be enchanted by sweet talks.

One look and a simple sentence could make your significant other understand you.

That was what love was about.

Huo Yunshen's nod and reply were sweet, even sweeter than the sweetest melon on earth.

"Mr. Huo, what are you going to do about tomorrow?" Xu Xiyao asked. Even though she was in a good mood, she was still worried about the extraordinary general meeting that would happen the next day.

"Don't worry, I still have something up my sleeve," Huo Yunshen replied. He'd decided to stop playing a good guy and show Huo Jingtang what it meant to betray his trust.

This is still not the worst case scenario!

Chapter 420 - Kissed Her by Force

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen felt that he could do anything as long as Xu Xiyan was by his side.

Xu Xiyan let out a sigh of relief as soon as she saw that Huo Yunshen had walked out of his despair and had thought of a counter move.

“Mr. Huo, sometimes I think that we are both the same,” Xu Xiyan said with a smile after she’d finish wrapping his knees with bandages. “We were both living in a harsh reality, but fortunately, we lucked out.”

Huo Yunshen had a brother that would do anything to take over his company, while Xu Xiyan had a sister who was corrupted to her heart. They were both hurt by the people they loved the most, but they chose to fight against their fate.

“It’s all because I met you,” Huo Yunshen said. All my luck, came from you.

They were both lucky because they got to meet each other.

He stared at her beautiful eyes intensely with his own, which were filled with gratitude and love.

“Me too,” Xu Xiyan smiled as she grabbed his hands. “No matter when, no matter where, no matter how desperate the moment is, don’t give up. Because you’re not alone anymore, because you still have me.”

“Thank you.”

It was Xu Xiyan who had pulled him up with her gentleness. All of the storms that were surrounding his head were gone as a ray of light shone onto him.

He wasn't as down as he used to be anymore, and was ready to face the event that would be happening the next day.

He looked at her beautiful face, her red lips and shining eyes. Huo Yunshen could feel his body heating up as he swallowed down his saliva.

He wanted to kiss her.

He moved slowly towards her as every molecule in his body was telling him to take her lips and taste them.

The kiss that she'd given him a few moments ago was too light, so light that he could not taste the full effect of the kiss, but it'd managed to stir him up.

Maybe it was because Huo Yunshen was staring intensely, but Xu Xiyan averted her gaze embarrassedly and was about to get up.

Yet the guy wrapped his strong arm along her thin waist and pulled her into his arms as he pulled her head in with his bandaged hands.

Just like that, Huo Yunshen planted his lips that was filled with love against hers.

It was Xu Xiyan's turn to be surprised. She felt like she was being kissed by force.

As her body was being held by the man, she couldn't move away from him and could only give into the kiss.

The kiss was deep, and it hurt a little.

Just as Xu Xiyan was trying to catch her breath, Huo Yunshen took the chance to pry her teeth open with his tongue.

The scene that he'd dreamt of was finally happening.

As Huo Yunshen was kissing the girl of his dream, his arms tightened around her waist as if he was trying to embed her into his own body.

Huo Yunshen finally let Xu Xiyan go when she was about to suffocate.

She slid to the ground and sat there, trying to catch her breath.

If not for the pain she was feeling on her lips, she would've thought that she was dreaming.

“Sorry, I...”Huo Yunshen apologized as he looked at the girl who was staring at him innocently.

There was no way that he could admit that he'd just gone overboard.

Chapter 421 - Their Relationship Deepened

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan did not want him to apologize.

She was definitely shocked by his sudden kiss.

When she first kissed him, it was with restraint...she'd never thought that the man would suddenly kiss her back.

And the kiss was wilder than she could've ever imagined, as if it was about to break every bone in her.

She'd always thought of Huo Yunshen as a warm and gentle kind of man. There was no way she would expect him to be so aggressive when it came to kissing.

Xu Xiyan calmed herself down as she tried to cool her face by swinging her palm as a fan. She knew that her face was very red without looking at herself in the mirror.

It was so embarrassing that she couldn't raise her head and look at his eyes anymore.

"All right, I'm done treating your wounds," Xu Xiyan said as she tried to change the awkward atmosphere. "Your house is quite messy now, sit down and stay there while I clean your house."

Xu Xiyan turned and started to sweep the floor.

Huo Yunshen looked at the back of the girl who was working and coughed lightly as his face started to heat up.

He licked his own lips, trying to taste the wild kiss with all of his heart.

He felt fulfilled, but he also despised himself for taking advantage of the girl who was trying to encourage him.

But since Xu Xiyan was the one who had kissed him first, he had to repay her with a kiss out of courtesy. But with those two kisses, their relationship had changed entirely.

Xu Xiyan was fast with her hands, and the house was clean in a few minutes. She'd placed all the stuff that wasn't broken back to where it used to be and threw out everything that couldn't be used anymore.

"Mr. Huo, I think you'll have to get a new table and a few lamps," Xu Xiyan said as she came back from throwing the last garbage out.

"Okay," Huo Yunshen replied as he raised his bandaged hands up. "Why don't you help me choose?"

"Sure thing, leave it to me," Xu Xiyan said. "I'll buy them online. But before that, you'll have to clean yourself up and change into a new set of clothes, all right?"

"Yeah." Huo Yunshen would now always agree to anything Xu Xiyan would say.

No matter how trivial the things were, it would always be important as long as he did it with Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan carried him back to his wheelchair and pushed him into the bathroom.

Xu Xiyan was about to prepare a hot bath for Huo Yunshen when he remembered that he would have a hard time removing his clothes.

"I'll just simply wipe my body," Huo Yunshen suggested. "I'll ask Yi Xiao to help me shower later."

"Okay."

Xu Xiyan respected his decision as she would also feel embarrassed if Huo Yunshen were to remove all of his clothes.

She dipped a towel into the hot water and helped him clean the blood off his face. She later wiped his muscular body clean while trying to avoid the wounds on his knees.

She was thorough yet gentle. Huo Yunshen closed his eyes to enjoy the moment.

As Xu Xiyan's fingers touched his body occasionally, he could feel a current running through him.

Xu Xiyan's face was already as red as a tomato when she'd finished wiping his body clean.

"I'll go get you some new clothes," Xu Xiyan said, throwing the towel down and running out of the bathroom. She was afraid that she might pounce at him if she stayed in there any longer with his naked body exposed.

Huo Yunshen lowered his head and looked at his thing between his legs. It was already standing up high and mighty.

The hell! My body is not listening to me...

Chapter 422 - Staring at Him

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Is she embarrassed because she saw this? Huo Yunshen asked himself. Shit! This is going to leave a bad impression on her.

Just as Huo Yunshen was cursing at himself, Xu Xiyan returned with a set of new clothes. She'd brought him a button down shirt because of the state of his hands.

Huo Yunshen put on the white shirt, and it instantly made him look more attractive.

Xu Xiyan helped him button his shirt, leaving the top two unbuttoned.

"Very charming," Xu Xiyan complimented after taking two steps back.

"Thank you," Huo Yunshen smiled. Her compliment was even sweeter than candy.

He was feeling much better, even the pain of his wounds had lessened.

"Have you eaten?" Xu Xiyan asked as she pushed him out of the bathroom, but did not wait for him to reply. "There's an 80% chance that you haven't. Why don't we eat together?"

"Okay," Huo Yunshen nodded happily, as he missed her foods.

Xu Xiyan pushed him back to the living room, got a glass of water for him and went into the kitchen.

She opened the fridge only to find just a few ingredients left in it.

"Mr. Huo, why don't we go to my place?" Xu Xiyan asked.

"There are more ingredients there."

“Sure thing,” Huo Yunshen replied. I’ll go wherever you tell me to, even if it’s hell.

Xu Xiyan smiled at him and pushed him through the crystal door and into Room 102.

She helped Huo Yunshen to the couch and went into her own kitchen.

After she’d finished cooking, she went to the living room to call for Huo Yunshen only to find him sleeping on the couch.

“Mr...” Xu Xiyan wanted to wake him but did not do so. She understood that he was under immense pressure and had been rushing in and out of the hospital for the past few days.

She decided to let him sleep as much as he wanted.

Xu Xiyan went into her room and found a blanket for Huo Yunshen. She laid the blanket over him and kneeled beside him, looking at him with her gentle eyes.

She could only stare at his handsome face without any worries when he was asleep.

Even though Huo Yunshen was thoroughly spent, it still did not mask his charming face.

Xu Xiyan reached out her fingers and touched his eyebrows.

He’s really good looking. It would be best if I could look at him every day.

Xu Xiyan could feel her eyelids getting heavier as she appreciated the charming man in front of her.

As the sky became darker and the street lamps turned on, the house remained dark.

Huo Yunshen was having a nightmare. It was a reflection of the life that he’d been having up until then.

He found himself deserted in the wilderness, and the last person to leave him alone was Xu Xiyan.

“I’m leaving, Mr. Huo,” Xu Xiyan said as she cried.

“Where are you going? Are you going to leave me alone too?” Huo Yunshen asked in pain. It was his first time to see her in

such a saddened state.

“Why should I stay? Did you ever care for me? What am I to you?”

Chapter 423 - Feed Him with Her Mouth

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

In the dream, Xu Xiyan was standing a few meters away from Huo Yunshen. Her hair covered half of her face as the wind blew, masking her sadness.

Huo Yunshen had no idea how to respond to her question.

Confessing his own feelings had never been something he was good at.

Because of his hesitation, disappointment could be seen in Xu Xiyan's eyes. She did not say anything and slowly turned away.

Huo Yunshen looked at her fading back and finally lost himself.

“Jing Xi! Don't go! Please!” Huo Yunshen shouted. “You're too important to me! I don't know how to live without you... Jing Xi...”

Huo Yunshen woke up from his dream, his heart beating faster than a bullet as his sweat had soaked through his white shirt.

“Jing Xi, don't leave me...” Huo Yunshen mumbled. He was already at his limit, he was about to break down from the fear of losing Xu Xiyan.

Suddenly, the lights turned on and lit the whole room up.

Huo Yunshen squinted and turned to see a thin girl standing near the light switch smiling at him.

“Jing Xi, you’re still here?” Huo Yunshen asked as he wiped the tears from his face.

“Of course I am,” Xu Xiyan smiled. “This is my house.”

Xu Xiyan had also fallen asleep. It was Huo Yunshen’s mumbling that woke her up. She’d guessed that he was having a nightmare and went to turn on the lights.

“Mr. Huo, what were you saying just now?” Xu Xiyan asked with a smile as she slowly walked towards him. “Can you repeat that again?”

“...” Huo Yunshen still had a few memories of the dream he’d had and still remembered how he’d begged for Xu Xiyan to stay.

There was no way that he could say that out loud in front of her now that he was awake.

“What? What did I say just now?” Huo Yunshen asked and began to act like an idiot.

Xu Xiyan rested her arms and head beside him and looked at him with her starry eyes.

“Don’t you remember?” Xu Xiyan joked. “You were calling my name, begging me to not leave you and saying that I’m important to you.”

Xu Xiyan regretted not recording his dream talk to replay it for him to hear.

In her heart, she was happy. Even if Huo Yunshen was saying those things because he was dreaming, it was still worth it to hear those words come from his mouth.

“...” Huo Yunshen’s face reddened. It was both awkward and embarrassing.

“I’m just joking,” Xu Xiyan laughed as she tried to help him with his awkwardness.

“But I’m not joking at all,” Huo Yunshen said. Those were his true feelings, there was no way that he was joking about it.

“I got it.” Xu Xiyan smiled and got up. “Now that you’re awake, I’ll go heat up the food.”

In just a few minutes, Xu Xiyao placed what was supposed to have been lunch on the table as their dinner. She went back to the living room and pushed Huo Yunshen to the dining table.

Xu Xiyao filled a bowl with rice, picked up a few vegetables with her chopsticks and was about to feed Huo Yunshen when he stopped her without thinking.

“I can eat on my own.”

“If you can pick your own chopsticks up,” Xu Xiyao smiled.

“Oh...” Huo Yunshen looked at his bandaged hands.

“I’ll feed you.”

Xu Xiyao spooned up a spoon of rice and placed the vegetables on top.

Yet, Huo Yunshen did not open his mouth even when the food was already next to it.

“Come on, don’t be embarrassed about it,” Xu Xiyao laughed.

“If you don’t want to eat with a spoon, how about I feed you with my mouth?”

Chapter 424 - A Secret Between Them

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

After hearing what she had said, Huo Yunshen flushed in embarrassment. He immediately opened his mouth and ate the food on the spoon, swallowing it down without chewing in his haste.

“Cough cough cough...”

He ate too fast and choked on the food. He couldn't stop coughing.

“Hey, slow down! See, you're choking now!”

Xu Xiyan thumped on his back to help him clear his throat, then gave him a sip of water.

“Sorry.”

Huo Yunshen was sorry for his clumsiness. If she hadn't said that she was going to feed him directly with her mouth, he wouldn't have choked.

He sighed to himself inwardly. This girl could easily cause him to lose control.

Xu Xiyan sniggered. She realized that Huo Yunshen was really sensitive. This man was so cute whenever he was shy!

But on the other hand, was she being too mischievous?

Was she behaving anything like a graceful lady?

After he stopped coughing, Xu Xiyan encouraged him as she continued to feed him, “Eat more, Mr. Huo. You'll only have

energy when you eat enough. You still have a hard battle to fight tomorrow.”

Yes.

There was a hard battle waiting for him tomorrow.

As Huo Yunshen thought of that, he began to eat in big mouthfuls, taking his meal seriously.

After dinner, Xu Xiyan sent Huo Yunshen back to his apartment. Yi Xiao had come over so she went back to her apartment.

At night, Xu Xiyan lay on her bed, too excited to sleep.

Her heart thumped wildly in her chest as she replayed the way Huo Yunshen had kissed her passionately earlier in the day in her mind.

On the bedside table, the screen of her mobile phone lit up. Xu Xiyan picked it up and looked at the screen. It was her daughter Ying Bao.

“Hello?” Xu Xiyan said softly after accepting the call. The little girl’s tender and childish voice came over the phone, “Xi Baby, are you done shooting? Have you eaten yet? Are you sleeping yet?”

The little girl blurted all three questions in one breath. It just showed how much she cared for her mother. Xu Xiyan felt her heart melting with her warmth. She replied, “Yeah, I’m done with today’s shoot and I’m about to go to sleep. Are you in bed now?”

“No. Baby has been waiting for your call. Why didn’t you call me?” The little girl asked in her babyish voice, but Xu Xiyan could hear the disappointment in her tone.

Xu Xiyan remembered. She had promised her daughter that she would call her after she was done filming today, but had forgotten to do so because she had to take care of Huo Yunshen.

She felt really sorry and could not help but feel remorse deeply. “I’m so sorry, Mommy was too busy and forgot.”

“Well all right, Baby can forgive you, but on one condition.”

Did she hear that right? The kid actually wanted to discuss terms with her?

So young yet already so shrewd! Where had she learned that from!?

Xu Xiyan turned to lie on her other side, passing her mobile phone to her other hand. “Okay, what conditions?” she said lazily.

“Take me to see Uncle Dimples,” the little girl said in a serious tone over the phone.

Okay. Xu Xiyan was impressed.

How could she not be? Wasn't this a special telepathy-like connection between father and daughter? Or was it because blood runs thicker than water?

Ever since her daughter had met Huo Yunshen, she would always whine about wanting to see him. Xu Xiyan thought that the little girl would forget about him after not seeing him for a long time, yet she still remembered him all this while.

“Tell me, why must you want to see Uncle Dimples?” Xu Xiyan decided to play along.

“Baby has something very important to tell Uncle Dimples.”

The little girl's tone was especially serious. Xu Xiyan could picture her cute little face becoming all serious. It must be very funny to see.

“What do you want to tell him? Can you tell Mommy?” Xu Xiyan pressed on.

“No. It's a secret between me and Uncle Dimples.”

In reality, Xu Xiyan was the one who did not understand Ying Bao. Although Ying Bao was young, she had a precocious mind and already had her own ideas.

She had already found her goal...

Chapter 425 - Mommy's Sweet Baby Girl

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

She had found her goal. She wanted to buy the best daddy in the world, and that candidate was Uncle Dimples.

Xu Xiyan felt like laughing, but she continued to play along, pretending to cry. “Oh? You and Uncle Dimples are already sharing secrets? Don’t you love me anymore? Boohoo... Mommy is so miserable...”

There was a moment of silence on the other side of the call. Finally, the little girl felt sorry for her mother and gave in. “Mommy, please don’t cry. Baby will tell you now: Baby wanted to see Uncle Dimples because Baby wanted to buy him and bring him home for you.”

“Huh?” Her daughter’s words struck her like lightning. She asked again, “Baby, do you really want to buy Uncle Dimples?”

“Yeah, Uncle Dimples is the gentlest and the kindest man I’ve ever seen, He is the most suitable person to become Baby’s daddy.”

Xu Xiyan was very surprised. She didn’t think that her daughter strongly believed in Huo Yunshen. The little girl had apparently reserved the post of her daddy for him.

For a moment, she almost blurted out and told her daughter that Uncle Dimples was her real father!

In fact, the other reason why Ying Bao liked Huo Yunshen was that she liked his dimples. His dimples were just like hers and it made her feel close to him.

Xu Xiyan thought that her daughter was only being naïve. She asked again, “Why do you think Uncle Dimples is good? Are you not bothered by his legs?”

There was a pause at the other end. Then, decisively and firmly, the little girl said, “Uncle Dimples will definitely learn to walk.”

Xu Xiyan snorted a laugh, amused by the little girl’s naivety. If Ying Bao was by her side, she would have immediately hugged her and showered her with kisses.

She was Mommy’s sweet baby girl, all right!

And the man her baby girl liked was also the one she liked too. Isn’t that great?

At the same time, Xu Xiyan deeply believed that a child’s mind is pure and innocent. They always meant it when they said what they like or dislike. Their opinions were rarely affected by external conditions.

Perhaps Ying Bao saw Huo Yunshen as a perfect father. It had nothing to do with his wheelchair.

At the end of the conversation, Xu Xiyan told her daughter to wait patiently for a few more days. After she had settled her work, she would take her to see Uncle Dimples.

After hanging up the call, Xu Xiyan let out a long sigh of relief. She then closed her eyes, the image of Huo Yunshen appearing in her mind.

She could imagine the three of them being together as a happy family.

How wonderful would that be!

She really looked forward to that. When would be a good time to tell him about Ying Bao?

Perhaps she should at least wait until after tomorrow—after dealing with the trouble in Yunhai Entertainment.

She wondered what Huo Yunshen had come up with. How was he going to deal with Huo Jingtang tomorrow?

...

The next day, in the Yunhai Entertainment Building, an extraordinary general meeting was being held at the conference center.

Shareholders of Yunhai Entertainment sat at both sides of the long table while Huo Jingtang sat at the head of the table.

While the meeting had yet to begin, the shareholders whispered and murmured amongst themselves, speculating about the purpose of the meeting.

Some of the major shareholders had been persuaded by Huo Jingtang and they would definitely vote for him during the voting process.

There was also a small number who were loyal to Huo Yunshen and Huo Xun, ones which he had not been able to entice.

But those people were only a small part of the shareholder group and there weren't enough of them to actually pose a threat to him.

Huo Jingtang's secretary was the host of the meeting. He stood up and turned to face everyone. "Good day everyone. As you all know, the Huo family is going through troubled times at the moment, and a new capable leader must be selected to carry the company on. Everybody knows the physical condition of our president, Huo Yunshen. He has been absent from his duties for a long time due to his injuries, and it is not known whether he will return to Yunhai. So for the sake of Yunhai's development and future, I would like to invite every one of you to re-elect someone for the post of president today."

He had made it sound as though they were going to re-elect a new president. But in fact, the real aim was to remove the current president.

Chapter 426 - Heart Of A Wolf

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

A wave of murmuring came from the attendees down the table. The shareholders who were supporting Huo Yunshen had objections and were expressing their disapproval of the re-election.

Huo Jingtang sat at the head of the table, silent as he watched those who were voicing their disapproval.

Very well. He shall remember those who were opposing. Once he became president, they would be the first to be fired.

His secretary continued, “Forced by such circumstances, Yunhai Entertainment is in need of someone capable to take charge and lead the company forward. If the company continues to be this disorganized, I believe that in one or two years, Yunhai will collapse on its own without interference from the outside world. Is this the outcome that everyone wants to see?”

While the secretary was still explaining, someone barged into the conference room. It was none other than the director of Yunhai Entertainment’s Public Relations department, Huo Sanyan.

Furious, she strode in towards Huo Jingtang and jabbed a finger at his nose.

“Huo Jingtang! What do you think you’re doing? Are you trying to remove Yunshen by holding this general meeting?”

In the past few days, Huo Sanyan had been going back and forth between the hospital and the company. She had been too

busy to realize what was going on.

But she had sensed that something was wrong with the company. If the staff from her department hadn't informed her, she wouldn't have learned that Huo Jingtang was holding a general meeting without the consent of her grandfather, father, and brother.

“Director Huo, you're not supposed to be here. Leave!” Huo Jingtang ordered her, with a voice that sounded as if it held the authority of a president.

“No, I'm not leaving! Huo Jingtang, you better have a good explanation! Is this how you handle affairs? Though Grandpa and my father are not here, my brother is still around. Since when was it your turn to become so rampant? Who do you think you are?”

Huo Sanyan placed her hands on her hips, showing off her superiority over Huo Jingtang. After all, unlike him, she was a legitimate child of the family. She was not going to let them have this meeting in peace.

“Mind your words, Huo Sanyan. I am currently the vice president of Yunhai and presently carrying out the president's duties. If I am not qualified, who else is?”

Huo Jingtang narrowed his dark eyes as he stared at Huo Sanyan. His eyes were full of warning.

Huo Sanyan was not afraid of him. She pointed at his nose and cursed, “You, you treacherous man! You're just like a usurper from feudal times and you have the savage heart of a wolf! I knew you were up to something rotten! Father is in a coma, Grandpa is hospitalized, and Yunshen is disabled. Is this how you plan to usurp power? While they're down and at a disadvantage?”

“Huo Sanyan, there's no place for your words here!” Huo Jingtang sneered, then immediately decreed, “Huo Sanyan, from this day, you're fired.”

“Huo Jingtang! You dare fire me?” Huo Sanyan glared at him furiously.

Huo Jingtang's face was expressionless. There was a flash of hatred in his eyes as he ordered his staff, "Drag this irrelevant woman out of the company."

Huo Jingtang's men promptly grabbed hold of Huo Sanyan's arms and dragged her out of the conference center.

Huo Sanyan continued to curse as she struggled to free herself on the way out. "Huo Jingtang! You're a bastard! You're not human..."

The door of the conference room once again slammed shut and silence returned to the room. Huo Jingtang said to his secretary, "Continue the meeting." His eyes swept down the table, then added, "Whoever is displeased, you're welcome to emulate Director Huo."

They all exchanged looks, but no one dared to say anything. They were afraid of losing their seats in the company.

They had witnessed Huo Jingtang's merciless act. He had even dared to execute his own family members. Was there anything else that he couldn't do?

The meeting continued. Those who were on Huo Jingtang's side began to voice their support and demanded to re-elect a new president.

At this point of the meeting, the voices of the opposition were overwhelmed and ignored as the voting began.

Other than the current president, Huo Yunshen, Huo Jingtang was the only other candidate on the candidate's list.

The objective was very clear. It was either they re-elect Huo Yunshen, or promote Huo Jingtang as the new president.

Chapter 427 - Hated That He Had Appeared

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

If they wanted a new president other than Huo Yunshen, they could only vote for Huo Jingtang. There were no other alternatives.

This was clearly Huo Jingtang's aim. He had always been an arbitrary person.

The votes were quickly tallied and the results were ready to be released. The people who supported Huo Yunshen stood by their decision and voted for his reappointment. Those who were persuaded by Huo Jingtang voted for him as the new president.

Huo Jingtang remained impassive and expressionless. He was good at hiding his own emotions.

At this moment, his heart was secretly filling with glee in anticipation of his guaranteed victory.

Soon, his goal was going to be realized, and he would be able to stamp Huo Yunshen under his feet.

As he thought of this, he could not help but feel very excited.

After confirming the vote count, Huo Jingtang's secretary began to announce the results. "According to the voting results, I hereby announce the winner is..."

Before he could announce the winner, there was a loud clatter as the door of the conference center was thrown open.

Everyone turned their heads at the door and saw a woman wheeling Huo Yunshen steadily into the room.

Everyone was stunned.

Their president... has come?

That's right.

Huo Yunshen had arrived. He appeared in the conference room, accompanied by Xu Xiyan.

Today, he wore a jet-black hand-made suit. His white shirt under his coat was neat and crisply ironed, and his twill tie was tucked neatly under the neckline of his suit. He looked stern.

His hair was well groomed and smartly styled. He carried a frosty look on his devilishly handsome face, his eyes sharp and bright under his thick, dark eyebrows. He looked very regal and domineering.

Though he was sitting in a wheelchair, he sat with his back straight and strong and his broad chest lifted, bringing out his inner nobility and exuding an air that he was evidently different than everyone else.

When he entered the conference room, Huo Jingtang was just as shocked as everyone else.

He thought that Huo Yunshen would definitely not come today. He thought that he had struck a fatal blow to him. He thought he had become very depressed and miserable.

However, Huo Yunshen was in good spirits as he appeared in front of everyone. Huo Jingtang was dumbstruck.

Why didn't he look like he was in despair?

Was his grief yesterday only an act?

Could it be that Huo Yunshen was the one who had outplayed him?

Huo Jingtang stared at Huo Yunshen in astonishment. He hated that he could not stare a dagger through him. He hated that he had come. He hated that he had appeared.

Since Huo Yunshen had come, today's motion to remove him would definitely fail. Huo Jingtang was only one step away

from power, and yet that goal was about to fall apart in front of his eyes.

He was not willing to give up without a fight!

Huo Yunshen was already in front of Huo Jingtang. He shifted his eyes from Huo Jingtang's face down to the table. "Aren't you all holding a meeting? Carry on."

Huo Yunshen's tone was casual, but for some reason, Huo Jingtang's secretary was beginning to have stage fright.

It was his turn to continue announcing the results of the voting, but he could not say a single word. He could only look at Huo Jingtang nervously.

Huo Jingtang despised Huo Yunshen to death, but in front of public eyes, he had to put on the act of a caring brother. "Yunshen, why have you come suddenly? Are you feeling better?"

Huo Yunshen gave him a ghost of a smile. "Thanks to your blessings, brother, I'm still alive for now."

Huo Jingtang could hear in his tone that Huo Yunshen was deliberately provoking him.

Huo Jingtang's face was becoming a bit chagrined. He glanced at Huo Yunshen as he tried to figure out his intentions. He looked at the way his younger cousin brother had dressed himself; so formal with those white gloves. What is his next move? Is he going to reclaim the post of president?

Huo Jingtang was not the only one who was mulling over the matter. Everyone else in the room was wondering too: what are they going to do next?

Are the two brothers going to quarrel over the president's post?

Chapter 428 - A Slap To His Face

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Nobody could tell that Huo Yunshen's hands were injured because Xu Xiyan had redone his bandages and made him wear a pair of white gloves over them.

He raised his right hand and gestured everyone to be silent.

At once, a perfect silence fell over the conference room.

Huo Yunshen looked down the table with an icy calmness and said, "Thank you all for coming. I know everyone put in a lot of effort to hold this conference today. If you're having worries over whether to remove me from my post, there is, in fact, no need for it. Today's general meeting is not even necessary because it is meaningless."

As he said that, everyone exchanged looks. Huo Jingtang's face became even harder.

Everyone knew that he had waited a long time for this chance to hold a general meeting. But now Huo Yunshen had come to destroy his hard work with a single speech.

Meaningless? Huo Jingtang thought.

Did that mean that he was planning to fight him to the end?

Huo Yunshen still had more to say. He turned to look at Huo Jingtang with a serious expression.

"My big brother Huo Jingtang has served as vice president in Yunhai Entertainment for many years. He has worked assiduously and without complaint of the hardships. Especially after my accident, he has managed Yunhai in an orderly

manner and united the hearts of the employees. It is because of my big brother's contributions that Yunhai is able to operate in an orderly manner and I'm very grateful to him. Without him, where would Yunhai be today? So, with his qualifications and character, he can be a capable president.”

Huo Yunshen had labeled the general meeting as pointless in the first part of his speech. But in his latter part of his speech, he had praised Huo Jingtang's character.

Most of the people in the room were surprised.

Huo Jingtang was even more baffled at Huo Yunshen's intentions. What did he mean by saying those words?

Was this a slap to the face to humiliate him?

Those who were on Huo Jingtang's side knew him clearly. They knew Huo Jingtang had only been working for his own cultivation in Yunhai Entertainment so he could match up to Huo Yunshen and fight against him.

Not only did he not unite the employees of the Yunhai, but he had also divided them into two extreme factions and caused never-ending internal disputes.

Thus, when Huo Yunshen had praised him that way, he felt like he had given a slap to his face. He could even feel the pain searing across his cheek inexplicably.

Huo Yunshen's speech was specifically meant for the ears of the shareholders. No matter who was going to take over Yunhai, he hoped that Yunhai could continue to grow.

After all, Yunhai was founded by decades of blood and sweat of his ancestors.

Even though there were endless disputes and a lack of peace between the two brothers, he would not let any outsiders catch wind of their discord.

While no one could figure out Huo Yunshen's true intent, he continued to speak, “Since all shareholders are here today, I would like to take this opportunity to announce important news. That is, from this day onwards, I, Huo Yunshen, resign

as the president and officially hand over Yunhai Entertainment to my big brother, Huo Jingtang.”

Everyone went into an uproar at Huo Yunshen’s sudden decision to resign.

Huo Jingtang did not know what to feel. He had tried so hard to get what he wanted, but his opponent had given it up just like that.

His brother had stepped down by himself, giving him the post of president. Why did he feel like he had done it out of charity?

“Yunshen, what are you doing? The results of the vote has yet to be announced. You still have a chance to be re-elected,” Huo Jingtang said pretendingly.

“No, Big Brother. I’ve always wanted to rest. I’ve already gotten what I want. I leave Yunhai in your capable hands. Do your best!”

After Huo Yunshen finished his words, he turned his cold gaze towards the shareholders. “One more thing. I wish to announce something else too.”

Everyone cast an astonished look at him and braced themselves for his next announcement.

Chapter 429 - A Clean Break

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen's face was serious as he spoke, "From the day I leave office, Yunhai Entertainment will be officially separated from the Huo Group. Yunhai Entertainment will be an independent company and will be responsible for its own losses and profits.

Only by kicking Huo Jingtang out of the Huo Group would it be made easier for him to teach him a lesson.

Huo Jingtang was dumbstruck. Did this mean that he was being kicked out of the Huo family along with Yunhai?

How could Huo Yunshen say that?

What right did he have?

After Huo Yunshen finished, he turned to look at Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan understood his look and placed two letters in front of Huo Jingtang; one was the renouncement letter of Huo Yunshen's right of inheritance of Yunhai, and the other was his resignation letter.

Huo Jingtang looked up and narrowed his eyes at Xu Xiyan. When she had come in with Huo Yunshen, he had already noticed her.

He had also noticed the way she looked at Huo Yunshen. It was full of feelings of trust and encouragement.

He had never been able to figure out what was her charm and how she was able to attract Huo Yunshen's attention, but now, he understood.

Because of her, Huo Yunshen was able to climb out of despair and recover his self-confidence, and he also gave up his power and status willingly. This showed that this woman was not to be underestimated.

Xu Xiyan knew that his job was done here and wheeled him out of the conference center silently.

Huo Jingtang was still stunned as he watched them disappear through the door of the conference room.

Was Huo Yunshen serious?

He said that he has gotten what he wanted. What did he mean?

Could it be...

Huo Jingtang rushed out of the meeting room. The two had not gone far. He shouted at them urgently, "Yunshen! Wait!"

Xu Xiyan stopped as she heard him shouting after them. Huo Yunshen did not even turn his head. She represented Huo Yunshen and spoke to Huo Jingtang in his stead, "President Huo, Mr. Huo has said whatever he had to say. Is there anything else?"

Huo Jingtang only narrowed his eyes at her. He went around to the front of Huo Yunshen's wheelchair and held onto one of the armrests. "Yunshen, we need to talk in private."

In the president's office, only Huo Yunshen and Huo Jingtang were present.

Huo Yunshen turned his wheelchair around and looked at Huo Jingtang. There was a chilling calmness in his eyes. "What do you want to talk about?"

Huo Jingtang felt his heart lurch. He could clearly sense that Huo Yunshen was a different person now and felt as if he had made a clean break from him.

He was just like a stranger, looking back at him with eyes completely devoid of any familiarity.

Huo Jingtang had noticed that Huo Yunshen had forgone even the basic courtesy of calling him big brother. His tone was so cold and distant.

“Yunshen, I only wanted to ask, what did you mean by your last words?”

Huo Jingtang’s biggest worry was that Huo Yunshen had a plot. Was he secretly scheming something even bigger by giving away Yunhai to him?

Huo Yunshen curved his lips into an icy smile. “They meant exactly that.”

“You said that you’ve gotten what you wanted. What does it mean?” Huo Jingtang pressed.

“Well, what do you think it means?”

Huo Yunshen did not answer and threw the question back at him.

Deep inside, he knew the answer very well. He abandoned Yunhai Entertainment and gained Xu Xiyan’s company.

This was a trade-off that could not be measured by commercial value.

To him, status and power were not important.

In his mind, Xu Xiyan was a treasure that hundreds and thousands of Yunhai’s could never be exchanged for.

While Huo Jingtang was still tearing his brain over Huo Yunshen’s true intent, Huo Yunshen had already steered his wheelchair out of the room.

He no longer had anything to say to Huo Jingtang and he didn’t want to waste another second with him.

Something did not add up. Huo Jingtang realized that he was leaving and automatically shouted out to him, “Yunshen, is all this Grandpa’s will or yours?”

Chapter 430 - Nothing To Do With Each Other

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Does it matter whose will it was? Big Brother, you’re right. We were destined to compete with each other from birth.”

He took a deep breath and said softly, “I used to tolerate you in the past, but never again. This is the last time I’ll call you brother. From now on, we’ll have nothing to do with each other and our brotherhood ends here. Here is my advice to you as a fellow member of the Huo family: look out for yourself.”

After saying this, Huo Yunshen left the president’s office.

The Huo Yunshen today had thoroughly seen Huo Jingtang’s character. He would no longer foolishly trust him, and he would never give him another chance to hurt him.

To him, losing Yunhai was not a failure. It was the start of a new journey.

He would create a new “Yunhai” with his own ability.

This time, he would only fight for Xu Xiyan.

He and Huo Jingtang were in two different worlds now. If Huo Jingtang dared to interfere, he would make sure that he would not give him mercy anymore.

He shall see who would come out victorious. Just wait and see!

After giving up Yunhai, Huo Yunshen felt a great burden had been lifted from his shoulders. He spent the next few days in a very comfortable and relaxed mood under Xu Xiyan’s care.

She had treated him like a very important patient, took great care of him and attended to his needs no matter how big or small they were.

As for the matters at the hospital, Huo Yunshen had visited his father and grandfather every day. Fortunately, his grandfather's health saw some improvements and he was discharged to return home.

His father had also recovered consciousness and had been transferred to the intensive care unit.

His parents and his other family members knew nothing about Yunhai's transfer of power. Huo Yunshen had ordered the people around him not to disclose anything about it, lest they suffer another blow.

All this while, Chen Yunlu had been spending her time at the hospital. She looked very exhausted mentally and physically and had lost a lot of weight.

Fortunately, her daughters were back and they were going to take turns looking after their father. She didn't want her son to take on the extra responsibility because of his special condition.

"Yunshen, you should go back and rest. Your sisters will come around later, there's really no need for you to be here."

The injuries on Huo Yunshen's palms and knees were mostly healed. The gaping wounds had closed up and he was no longer restricted by them. As the only son in the family, he was duty-bound to take care of his father.

He handed over the food he had brought to his mother and urged her, "Mom, you should eat. Let me look after him."

"Okay, what delicious foods have you brought me today?"

As Chen Yunlu opened the thermos jar, the fragrant smell of the food wafted out.

"Nothing particularly special. It's all I could get, so just make do with it."

Huo Yunshen did not say it was Xu Xiyan who had made the food because she had told him not to.

In this situation, Xu Xiyan had not cooked for his parents because she wanted to please them. She had cooked because she only wanted to do whatever she could to help Huo Yunshen, even if it was just a small contribution.

“Wow, this tastes really good. Which restaurant did you buy it from? Who is the chef?” Chen Yunlu praised profusely as she ate the food.

She seldom tasted such simple and refreshing yet appetizing food, as she was used to eating rich delicacies.

Judging from the combination of the dishes and the way they had been prepared, she guessed they were not made by an ordinary restaurant.

Huo Yunshen smiled lightly, “They were made by a private kitchen. The cook is a beautiful woman.”

“Oh. How rare it is to find a beautiful woman who is also a good cook.”

“Mom, since you like the food of this restaurant, how about I marry that beautiful cook?” Huo Yunshen said in a half-joking manner, trying to test his mother’s reaction.

Chen Yunlu’s eyes lit up. She didn’t expect her son to actually take the initiative to tell her who he wanted to marry. She immediately agreed to it without thinking. “Okay, as long she has a good background and is a good girl, Mom will agree to it.”

Huo Yunshen’s expression turned very serious. “You said it yourself. Dad will help me testify.”

Chapter 431 - He Was Moved

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Yes, yes, of course, but there’s no point talking so much before you’ve actually got the girl,” Chen Yunlu chuckled, then turned to look at her husband who was lying on the hospital bed. “Old Huo, have you heard? Your son is finally enlightened and wants to marry a girl. You must get well soon. Don’t you want to attend their wedding?”

Huo Zhen could not speak for the moment. He could only twitch his eyelids to show that he had heard her. He wanted to attend their wedding.

Huo Yunshen was moved after watching his parents’ interaction with each other. He could feel that they had great hopes for him.

They were constantly looking forward to him marrying and settling down as soon as possible, and inheriting the family business.

He had thought carefully about it. As soon as he could walk again, he would propose to Xu Xiyan and marry her as soon as possible.

He hoped that he would not need to wait long for this day to come.

While Huo Yunshen was accompanying his father in the hospital ward, Xu Xiyan was also in the same hospital.

When she came to her grandfather’s ward, Mrs. Dong, the care worker, had already taken care of her grandfather with his

dinner. The old man was sitting on his bed, fiddling with a colored candy wrapper.

The first thing Xu Xiyan did after seeing Mrs. Dong was express her gratitude. “Mrs. Dong, thank you for taking care of my grandfather these past several days, it must be really hard for you.”

Mrs. Dong’s face was kind as she looked at her. She smiled and shook her head, “It’s nothing. I’m only doing my job.”

Xu Xiyan thanked Mrs. Dong from the bottom of her heart. It was also good luck that she was able to find such a good care worker.

She remembered the day after her grandfather was hospitalized, the plainly dressed Mrs. Dong had come into the ward herself and inquired whether there was anyone who was interested in hiring a care worker.

After talking with her, Xu Xiyan came to understand that Mrs. Dong’s family conditions were not very good. She needed money for her son’s college tuition, so she was desperate to find a job to fund her family expenses.

Xu Xiyan felt that she was a sincere and responsible person, so she hired her as a full-time care worker for her grandfather.

The Xu family patriarch’s condition was still the same and there were no improvements, especially in such a short time. The doctor recommended that he was to be transferred to a nursing home for his rehabilitation.

Xu Xiyan immediately searched for the major nursing homes in Peijing on her mobile phone, checking which one would be the most suitable.

Mrs. Dong also helped out by giving her a suggestion. “Miss Jing Xi, I know a very good nursing home where I used to care for an elderly person. The sanitary conditions, environment, and location are quite good. Transportation is convenient, too.”

“Really? Which nursing home is that?” As long Xu Xiyan could give her grandfather a comfortable life, she was willing to pay, no matter how much it costed.

“Peijing Yunrui Nursing Home.”

“Oh, I know that one, but I heard that they don’t accept ordinary patients. They have a very high criterion.”

Xu Xiyan knew that the Yunrui Nursing Home was indeed good in all aspects. But she had also heard that they only accepted important government officials or people with social status.

Ordinary people could only stand outside the place and look, but to go in and live inside there was close to impossible. So when Xu Xiyan was reviewing the nursing homes, the first thing she did was cross out Yunrui.

“It doesn’t matter. I’m close to the manager and I can ask him to admit your grandfather,” Mrs. Dong said.

“Is it really all right? Wouldn’t you be owing them a favor?” Xu Xiyan said uneasily.

“It’s really okay. They are a business, after all, and there’s really no reason for them to reject a patient. I will call them now to see whether it could be done.”

Mrs. Dong was very enthusiastic as she went off to call the nursing home. A few minutes later, she came back joyfully to tell Xu Xiyan the news, “Yes, they can take in your grandfather. They have a vacant room now and you can send your grandfather there anytime.”

“That’s great! Thank you so much, Mrs. Dong.”

The next day, after finally settling on a nursing home, Xu Xiyan proceeded to settle her grandfather’s discharge procedures and send him to the Yunrui Nursing Home.

...

Chapter 432 - Strive To Walk Again As Soon As Possible

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Thanks to Mrs. Dong's connections, her grandfather's admission procedure went very smoothly. The fees were charged on a quarterly basis and the price was similar to that of a normal nursing home. It was not as outrageous as she had thought.

Xu Xiyan felt very relieved to have her grandfather live in the best nursing home in Peijing and under Mrs. Dong's care. She could finish the last few days of her shoot in peace.

The truth was, she had no idea that the care worker and the nursing home had been secretly arranged by Huo Yunshen.

In order to allow her to finish her shoot in peace and let her be free of worries, he had specially arranged Mrs. Dong to be her grandfather's caregiver.

Later, after getting word from Mrs. Dong, he had Yi Xiao help arrange for her grandfather to be admitted to the Yunrui Nursing Home for his recuperation.

The admission criteria for the Yunrui Nursing Home was high and ordinary patients were not accepted, yet Huo Yunshen was able to let Xu Xiyan's grandfather be admitted to the nursing home so easily. Not many people knew about this, but he was able to do it because he was the behind-the-scenes investor for Yunrui.

In addition, Huo Yunshen had also cleared the obstacles off Xu Xiyan's road to stardom.

The voting for a new lead actress for the movie, “Root of Evil,” for instance. Originally, the actress Yang Qiong had a vote count nearly double that of Xu Xiyan’s, and she was fully qualified for the lead female role.

The voting looked normal to the ordinary eye, but Huo Yunshen had spotted something amiss in the voting trend.

He had asked Yi Xiao to investigate, and as expected, Yang Qiong had indeed cheated in the voting.

In the entertainment circle, Huo Yunshen despised those who resorted to unfair means to compete the most. He would never tolerate behaviors such as Yang Qiong’s tampering with the vote count.

Could Yang Qiong still retain her position after evidence of her exploits was handed to the director of “Root Of Evil?”

...

Huo Yunshen had already left his father’s ward. His sister had come to take care of his father, so he took the opportunity to go to the rehabilitation center for his rehabilitation training.

Huo Yunshen sat on the training equipment and pushed against the support bars with his arms, concentrating all of his strength on his legs.

It was a particularly strenuous action and his clothes were soaked all over with sweat.

However, the result exceeded his expectations. He could feel his legs and he was able to stand up unsteadily.

Qin Kun was standing beside him as he assisted him with his training, encouraging him, “Not bad, Yunshen. Come on, you can do it.”

He saw Huo Yunshen’s effort and persistence. He saw his progress.

It was really great progress. He had thought that it might not be possible for the sensory receptors in Huo Yunshen’s legs to fully recover by the end of the year. But now, Huo Yunshen could already feel his legs, and it was earlier than expected.

Although it wasn't much, it was still a good sign.

Huo Yunshen's face and neck were covered with large beads of sweat. He gritted his teeth and continued to train hard.

He was even more encouraged after being able to feel his legs.

He wanted to train nonstop and strive to walk again as soon as possible.

Whenever he felt tired and could not get up, thinking of Xu Xiyan's sunny little face would fully recharge him with motivation.

He had been training for five minutes when his phone rang with a new message notification. He let go of the support beams and fell back onto his seat.

He took a towel from Qin Kun, wiped his sweat off then picked up the phone. A warm cozy feeling flickered to life in his heart when he saw it was a message from Xu Xiyan.

[Mr. Huo, I'm done with my shoot today. Where are you? Do you want me to come and pick you up?]

[No. Can you go home and wait for me?].

[Ok, I'll go buy some groceries for dinner tonight. I'll wait for you.]

Huo Yunshen curved his lips lightly at Xu Xiyan's reply and put down his mobile phone, then said to Qin Kun, "Professor Qin, let's continue."

Once again, Huo Yunshen started another round of training. On the way home, Xu Xiyan dropped by the Jing family house and picked up Ying Bao.

She wanted to take the opportunity to tell Huo Yunshen about Ying Bao's true origin tonight, and just thinking about it made her feel really excited. She wondered what his reactions would be after learning that Ying Bao was his daughter.

Chapter 433 - He Didn't Want To Be Number Two

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

After picking up Ying Bao, Xu Xiyan went to the market and bought many fresh ingredients before returning to Shengshi Yujing.

She planned to make a nutritious steamboat in the evening. After returning to her apartment, Xu Xiyan let Ying Bao play in the living room and went to the kitchen to make bone soup.

The bone soup contained a lot of calcium which was helpful to the recovery of Huo Yunshen's leg bones. She had also added several valuable Chinese medicinal herbs into the soup to strengthen the effect.

At about five o'clock in the afternoon, the soup was ready. Xu Xiyan began to prepare the ingredients for the steamboat.

While she was in the kitchen, the doorbell rang. Thinking that it must be Huo Yunshen, Xu Xiyan told Ying Bao to go open the door.

Ying Bao hopped down from the sofa and ran to the door with her little bare feet cheerfully. She opened the door, then blinked her large eyes. "Uncle Tree-leaf?"

Ye Xun did not expect to see Ying Bao at her mother's place today. He bent over and picked her up. "Oh, my dear daughter is here! Did you miss daddy?"

Ying Bao thought for a while before answering him earnestly, "Erm... a little I guess."

Ye Xun deliberately teased her as he carried the little girl into the house, “Why only a little? Who did you miss very much then?”

Ying Bao tilted her little head as she replied, “Uncle Dimples.”

“Uncle Dimples? Who’s that?” Ye Xun asked absentmindedly.

“Uncle Dimples is an uncle with dimples, of course,” said Ying Bao matter-of-factly.

Huo Yunshen’s dimpled face suddenly flashed across Ye Xun’s mind and he felt the hair behind his neck bristling.

“Hey, you little rascal! Are you betraying me now? You actually like someone else now? Are you going to abandon your father?”

Ye Xun was beginning to fume. He had accepted that he would not have the woman he liked, but now, even the daughter he had raised himself did not love him anymore. Oh god, why?

“Why would I do that? You’ll always be my favorite Uncle Tree-leaf!” The little girl comforted him.

“Then, what is my position in your heart?”

“You’re Number 1,” Ying Bao said, lifting a finger. Ye Xun was satisfied by her answer before the little girl added another sentence. “After Baby has a daddy, Uncle Tree-leaf can only be Number 2.”

“Wha—”

Ye Xun felt like spitting a fountain of blood.

In the online game they were playing, he had always been Number 2, pressed behind by the Number 1 player “Yun Qing.” He was very displeased about it.

He didn’t want to be Number 2. Never!

Xu Xiyan heard voices coming from the living room and came out of the kitchen joyfully. Her smile stiffened on her face when she discovered it was Ye Xun who was in the house.

“Why have you come?”

Ye Xun placed Ying Bao gently standing on the sofa and looked at her. "It was Huo Sanyan who forced me to come. It's not like I wanted to."

Ye Xun had to make up an excuse because Xu Xiyan had been treating him indifferently all this while, despite his having apologized to her many times.

"Well, okay. Help yourself then."

Xu Xiyan left it at that. If Ye Xun could turn over a new leaf and refrain from interfering with her and Huo Yunshen, they could still continue their friendship as senior brother and junior sister.

Otherwise, no one could blame her for being heartless.

Ye Xun caught a whiff of the food's fragrance in the air and let his nose lead him to the source. "Mmm, it smells so good. What delicious foods have you cooked up?"

He craned his neck into the kitchen and noticed plates and plates of various ingredients on the table. "Wow, are you making steamboat? Looks like this is my lucky day!"

"They're not for you. You can leave now."

Xu Xiyan had specially prepared it for Huo Yunshen. She did not want Ye Xun to enjoy it.

"..." Ye Xun was momentarily speechless. In order to stay around, he shamelessly used Ying Bao as an excuse. "I can't leave. My daughter doesn't want me to go. I have to stay and play with her."

Ying Bao chimed in unexpectedly, "It's okay, Uncle Tree-leaf. Baby doesn't need your company. I can play by myself."

Ye Xun: "... Damn it..."

Chapter 434 - A Great Responsibility

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Just then, at that moment, someone was knocking on the door outside. Could it be Huo Yunshen this time?

“I’ll get the door.”

Xu Xiyan had decided to go open the door herself, but her daughter had already slid off the sofa and got to the door first. The girl was very eager to see Uncle Dimples.

Huo Sanyan appeared at the door. She noticed the person who had opened the door for her was a little girl. She recognized her—she was the little internet celebrity, Cherry Baby. She was very surprised. “Hmm? How come you’re here, little one?”

Ying Bao was stunned for a few seconds before finally recognizing the woman in front of her as Uncle Dimples’ older sister. She immediately greeted her, “Hello, Beautiful Auntie.”

Huo Sanyan recalled that she had met the little girl before at the door of her brother’s apartment long ago. That time, the little girl had run away before she could say anything.

Today the little girl had not only opened the door for her but had also sweetly called her “Beautiful Auntie.” Huo Sanyan suddenly felt that she had become more beautiful several-fold.

Huo Sanyan smiled and waved at Ye Xun. “Hi, Young Master Ye.”

Ye Xun had wanted to hide but it was too late. He did not greet her, and only shot her a look before going over to sit down on

the sofa.

As usual, he was still treating her coldly.

Huo Sanyan loved his pride and aloofness to death. The more he acted cold and proud, the more she fell in love with him.

After entering the house, Huo Sanyan stroked Ying Bao on her head and asked, “Whose child is this?”

She always thought that Xu Xiyan was single and a good match for her brother, but she never thought to associate the child with Xu Xiyan.

“...” Xu Xiyan was about to explain when Ye Xun immediately stood up from the sofa. “She’s mine.”

Huo Sanyan’s eyes were wide with shock. “Young Master Ye, she’s yours? You...”

“Yes, that’s right. She is my daughter.”

Ye Xun came over and picked up Ying Bao. He cast a desperate look at her and said, “Daughter, call me daddy.”

Ying Bao understood his look and knew what was going on. She wrapped her arms around Ye Xun’s neck and said sweetly, “Daddy.”

“Aye!” Ye Xun was really happy. After waiting for so many years, the little girl finally called him daddy. Unfortunately, Xu Xiyan had always been very strict with what came out of her child’s mouth and she would not let her simply call him daddy.

This is great. Thanks to Huo Sanyan’s arrival, he could finally hear what he’d always wanted Ying Bao to call him.

At the same time, he believed that acknowledging Ying Bao as his daughter was a good thing too as it could immediately deter Huo Sanyan from clinging onto him.

He already has a child. Why would she not retreat?

However, it was too early to be happy. After learning that Ying Bao was Ye Xun’s daughter, Huo Sanyan pressed on, “You’re married? Who is her mother?”

Ye Xun glanced over at Xu Xiyan automatically. Xu Xiyan immediately interjected, "Miss Huo, come here. I'll tell you."

Xu Xiyan pulled Huo Sanyan into a room and whispered to her, "His lover has long since passed away, so it's best not to probe into it."

"Oh, oh, okay. I understand now," Huo Sanyan said, nodding again and again, then turned to look at Ye Xun. The way she looked at him was different now; it was full of pity and sorriiness this time.

However, Huo Sanyan saw his predicament as her chance.

Surely the child needs the love of a mother?

Ye Xun cannot be single forever, right?

God must've arranged for her to appear in Ye Xun's life at this moment so she could comfort him and take care of both father and daughter.

By a force unseen, she felt a great responsibility being bestowed upon her.

"You can continue with your chores, I'll go accompany them both."

Huo Sanyan left it at that and went off to chat with Ye Xun and Ying Bao, making herself comfortable as if at home.

Xu Xiyan seized a brief respite of the situation and scurried back into her bedroom, preparing to contact Huo Yunshen with her mobile phone to tell him that there was an emergency.

...

Chapter 435 - Probe Him

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

She was very worried that Huo Yunshen and Ye Xun would meet again. She was afraid that Ye Xun would start talking nonsense again and say something unpleasant to him.

The call connected and Xu Xiyan heard a “hello” from the other end of the call. She asked, “Mr. Huo, where are you now?”

“I’m already back. I’m about to come ov—”

Before Huo Yunshen could finish his words, Xu Xiyan heard Ying Bao’s excited voice from the other side of the call.

“Uncle Dimples!”

What could it mean if she could hear Ying Bao’s voice from Huo Yunshen’s side of the call?

Wouldn’t that mean that he had already arrived?

Aaaaaahhhhh...

Xu Xiyan felt goosebumps leaping out of her skin. She dropped her phone and rushed out of the room.

When she came to the living room, she saw a very strange scene.

Huo Yunshen had come through the crystal closet door and Ying Bao was greeting him happily. She threw herself into his arms and had even climbed onto his lap.

Ye Xun and Huo Sanyan were stunned. They were staring at the man who had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, dumbstruck.

In fact, Huo Yunshen was stunned too. Before he could finish his sentence over the phone, he realized there were other people in Xu Xiyan's house, and one of those people was his big-mouthed older sister.

Huo Sanyan was the first to recollect her wits. She exclaimed, "What the f*ck! Since when was there a door here?"

Xu Xiyan immediately rushed over to them, chuckling nervously as she explained, "Don't you think this door is really convenient for taking care of Mr. Huo?"

After exchanging looks with Xu Xiyan, Huo Yunshen picked Ying Bao up and greeted them awkwardly, "You guys are here?"

"Yeah! I didn't expect you to come, too," Huo Sanyan said, wheeling her own younger brother into the room enthusiastically.

Ye Xun looked up and down at Huo Yunshen secretly, a suspicious expression on his face. A strange notion flashed across his mind. What is his true identity?

He had planned to buy the apartment beside Xu Xiyan's unit back when he was moving over but discovered that the owner of that apartment was very secretive. Though he had used various methods to find out about the owner's identity, he could not find even a single clue.

At this moment he could not help but suspect Huo Yunshen's identity. It seemed like he was not as simple as he looked.

Other than the members of the JS group, who would go to extreme lengths to keep their identity a secret?

Was he someone from the Dark Zone?

It seemed he would have to look for an opportunity to probe him.

"Uncle Dimples, where have you been all this while? Baby missed you," Ying Bao said, sitting on Huo Yunshen's lap with her little arms around his neck.

"Uncle had some family matters to attend to, but Uncle missed you too."

Huo Yunshen could not explain why; it was clear that he had met with Ying Bao only a handful of times, and yet he had found himself longing for her deeply.

Often, he would think of her cute little face.

“That’s great! Baby is so happy!”

The thought of Uncle Dimples missing her gave the little girl a warm and fuzzy feeling inside.

Ying Bao and Huo Yunshen sat there as they gazed at each other, looking into each other’s eyes for a long moment.

The same strange thoughts emerged in Ye Xun’s mind again. He looked at the dimples on Ying Bao’s and Huo Yunshen’s cheeks; their perfect similarity gave Ye Xun a very bad feeling.

There were many times he could not help but wonder whether Ying Bao was Huo Yunshen’s daughter.

But then again, it didn’t seem plausible. If she was really his daughter, why did Xu Xiyan not introduce them to each other as father and daughter?

The thought of his little girl, who he had raised himself, calling someone else her father filled Ye Xun’s heart with bitterness. He wanted to exterminate that possibility at its roots, no matter how trifling it seemed.

“Daughter, you should come down. Don’t keep sitting on your uncle; your uncle is very fragile.”

Ye Xun stepped forward and lifted Ying Bao off Huo Yunshen’s lap, then coaxed her, “My little daughter, how about Daddy plays a game with you?”

“Baby does not want to play games. Baby only wants to play with Uncle Dimples.” Ying Bao had immediately rejected him.

Chapter 436 - A Guess

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Dad? Daughter? Huo Yunshen looked at Xu Xiyan in awe. Is Ye Xun Ying Bao's father? But I thought she's the daughter of Fang Xiaocheng's relative?

"Just on time, Mr. Huo," Xu Xiyan smiled. "Dinner is almost done."

Huo Sanyan pushed Huo Yunshen into the living room. Xu Xiyan got a glass of water for him and went back into the kitchen.

"I'll go help her," Huo Sanyan said. "I might be able to learn something."

Learning to cook wasn't Huo Sanyan's intention. What she wanted was to know more about Ye Xun.

Only two men and a cute little girl remained in the living room.

Ying Bao was playing with a puzzle on the table. Ye Xun raised his head and looked at Huo Yunshen.

"Mr. Huo, how many identities do you have?" Ye Xun asked.

"I don't get what you mean," Huo Yunshen replied while raising one of his eyebrows.

"Don't act stupid," Ye Xun said while looking toward the kitchen. "There's only two of us here."

"Hey, don't forget about me," Ying Bao scolded.

"Of course," Ye Xun smiled as he rubbed Ying Bao's head.

"Even from when you bought Room 101, I can't find anything regarding you anywhere," Ye Xun said as if he was possessed

by Sherlock Holmes. “Don’t you find that suspicious?”

“And why’s that?” Huo Yunshen asked. He’d already guessed that Ye Xun would try and look him up.

Huo Yunshen would’ve already used his power to send Ye Xun back to Estan if not for his sister.

“Just tell me, which side are you on?” Ye Xun said as he got up and stood in front of Huo Yunshen. “JS or Dark Zone?”

In Ye Xun’s mind, Huo Yunshen was either with the JS or the Dark Zone.

A few years ago, JS had infiltrated the Dark Zone and killed the brother of their leader, which worsened their relationship. The leader of Dark Zone even had a worldwide 5 billion dollar bounty for the head of the JS leader, Zeus.

Yet, until now, no one had a clue who Zeus was.

“I don’t get what you’re saying,” Huo Yunshen replied calmly. “I’m me, Huo Yunshen.”

“Don’t play stupid in front of me!” Ye Xun scolded. “5 billion for Zeus’s head. If the Dark Zone knew about your identity, what do you think they would do to you?”

Ye Xun wasn’t a 100% sure that Huo Yunshen was Zeus, it was only a wild guess.

“5 billion for Zeus’s head,” Huo Yunshen said coldly. “And how much do you think your head is worth?”

In other words, Huo Yunshen was asking how many heads Ye Xun has.

Xu Xiyan walked out from the kitchen with a tray of cut fruits in her hands, and she saw the awkward situation.

“What are you doing to Mr. Huo?” Xu Xiyan asked in surprise. “What did you say to him this time?”

“Nothing, we were just talking,” Ye Xun laughed as he patted Huo Yunshen’s shoulder. “Don’t worry, we are friends now.”

Xu Xiyan stared at him, clearly not believing a word he’d just said.

Chapter 437 - Provoking Him Intentionally

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“I’ve even asked Mr. Huo here to join me on The Royal Alliance!” Ye Xun said to prove their relationship. “Come on, let’s play a few rounds before dinner starts.”

Ye Xun took out his phone and opened the game.

“Shall we?” Ye Xun asked as he swung the phone in front of Huo Yunshen.

“Maybe next time,” Huo Yunshen rejected. He wanted to spend more time with Ying Bao instead of playing games.

“Come on, I’ve already invited you personally, and you still reject me?” Ye Xun challenged, trying to provoke Huo Yunshen. “Don’t tell me you’re bad at the game?”

“Play with him,” Xu Xiyan said as she rolled her eyes. “Just kill him in one hit. Let him know who’s the best at the game.”

“...” Ye Xun was rendered speechless by Xu Xiyan’s action. What the hell? Kill me in one hit? In your dreams.

“All right,” Huo Yunshen said.

Huo Yunshen took out his phone and logged into his “Yun Qing” account. As he logged into the game, notifications of people asking for marriage kept popping up.

Ye Xun logged into his account “Yiye Zhiqiu” and noticed the female player that he had dreamt of, “Yun Qing,” was online, and quickly sent her a marriage request excitedly.

But Yun Qing rejected her request two seconds later.

Ye Xun kept sending more requests but they were all rejected by Yun Qing.

Weird... Ye Xun thought. Yun Qing already divorced Gongzi Yaoyue... why is she still rejecting me? I'm the second in the whole game!

Huo Yunshen had already heard from Xu Xiyan that Ye Xun was Yiye Zhiqiu, and he frowned when he got a ton of requests from him.

Ever since Yun Qing's divorced with Gongzi Yaoyue, many male characters had been flooding his account with marriage requests.

Looks like I'll have to remarry Gongzi Yaoyue for this to stop... Huo Yunshen sighed.

"Hey, add me, my IGN is Yiye Zhiqiu," Ye Xun said. He was still down from being rejected by Yun Qing.

"Done," Huo Yunshen said without raising his head.

Ye Xun looked at his screen as a friend request popped up. He saw the name of the requester and almost jumped off of the couch.

"Xiao... Xiao Xixi!" Ye Xun shouted. "Come here!"

"What? What's wrong?" Xu Xiyan responded to Ye Xun's high-pitched voice.

"Look! The goddess finally add me as her friend!" Ye Xun said as he showed Xu Xiyan his phone.

Xu Xiyan did not say anything, only looking at Ye Xun like she was looking at an idiot. Man, I'm dying to see his reaction when he realizes his goddess is actually a man!

"Hey, why haven't you add me?" Ye Xun asked after he'd accepted Yun Qing's friend request.

"I've already added you," Huo Yunshen said.

"What? When?" Ye Xun asked. In his mind, he thought Huo Yunshen would definitely be playing a male mage character.

“Didn’t you just add him?” Xu Xiyan said. “His IGN is Yun Qing.”

“What?” Ye Xun said as his jaw dropped. “You mean... he’s Yun Qing?”

Huo Yunshen raised his head and looked at Ye Xun with no emotion in his eyes, as if he was asking what was so weird about that.

Ye Xun’s face instantly darkened as soon as he learned that the best player in the game, the goddess Yun Qing, was actually a dude in real life.

Chapter 438 - I've Missed You

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“You are actually playing a female character? What the hell, man?” Ye Xun shouted at Huo Yunshen in disdain, trying to regain his pride.

“What’s wrong with that?” Xu Xiyan laughed. “I’m playing a male character, too. Oh, by the way, didn’t you just sent a marriage request to Yun Qing?”

“I...” It was as if someone had slapped Ye Xun in the face.

“F*ck! That’s it! I’m not playing this game anymore!” Ye Xun shouted.

“Hey, don’t curse in front of the child!” Xu Xiyan scolded. “Just uninstall it if you don’t want to play it anymore.”

Xu Xiyan looked at Ye Xun as if she was telling him to not blame it on the game if he was afraid of losing.

“Fine! I’ll uninstall it!”

But Ye Xun did not press the uninstall button.

“Ha! Do you think I’m that stupid?” Ye Xun laughed. “There’s no way I’m uninstalling it when I’ve climbed my way up to the second spot!”

Huo Sanyan suddenly rushed out from the kitchen and shouted, “What’s going on? The Royal Alliance? Who’s the second best player in the whole game?”

It was as if she’d heard big news as she had a huge smile on her face.

“Ye Xun!” Xu Xiyan announced.

“You’re him? You’re Yiye Zhiqiu?” Huo Sanyan gasped as he looked at Ye Xun with her starry eyes.

“Yeah, so what?” Ye Xun said proudly. Even though he was the second, it was still a huge feat.

“Oh, my husband! I’ve missed you!” Huo Sanyan screamed as she rushed over and hugged Ye Xun.

“What the hell? Who’s your husband?” Ye Xun said as he pushed Huo Sanyan away.

“You! Did you forget me? I’m Guanfang Renzheng Xiaoke’ai!” Huo Sanyan said.

Guanfang Renzheng Xiaoke’ai? Ye Xun looked at Huo Sanyan as all of his hairs stood up. “You’re Guanfang Renzheng Xiaoke’ai?”

“Yup!” Huo Sanyan replied happily. “Don’t you think fate works in mysterious ways?”

“...” Ye Xun was speechless. He could feel his life slowly being depleted away.

All of his hard work, gone in the hands of the Huo siblings.

Ye Xun had married Guanfang Renzheng Xiaoke’ai in the game to complete a mission.

He instantly canceled the marriage after the event was finished, but Guanfang Renzheng Xiaoke’ai kept bugging him after that.

Now that Yun Qing had finally divorced Gongzi Yaoyue, he’d learned that she was Huo Yunshen’s character.

“My husband...” Huo Yunshen had finally found Yiye Zhiqiu. What was more was that the ex-husband in the game and Ye Xun were the same person. It was as if God was looking over her shoulder.

She’d finally found her calling: to win over Ye Xun’s heart.

Chapter 439 - I'll Do Whatever You Ask

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Stop calling me that! I’ve already divorced you!” Ye Xun scolded.

“Yeah, but we can still get back together, right?” Huo Sanyan said. “I still think you’re the best in the game, the best thing I ever did was teaming up with you! Do you know that you look very cool when you’re killing monsters?”

Ye Xun was the perfect hero in Huo Sanyan’s eyes. He was the best man in the world to her.

Since Ye Xun viewed himself highly, after being humiliated by Huo Yunshen and Xu Xiyan, he somewhat felt like he had regained a bit of his pride when he was being complimented by Huo Sanyan.

Huo Sanyan wasn’t as stubborn in his eyes anymore.

“Fine, I’ll give you a chance for us to reconcile,” Ye Xun said as if he was a god, himself.

“Oh my god! Thank you, my husband! I’ll do whatever you ask!” Huo Sanyan screamed.

Ye Xun could feel a tingle in his heart every time Huo Sanyan call him her husband. He sneaked a peek at Xu Xiyan and realized that she was already pushing Huo Yunshen out of the living room.

“Mr. Huo, let’s go get your hands washed before dinner,” Xu Xiyan said.

“All right,” Huo Yunshen replied and turned to look at Ying Bao who was still playing with the puzzle. “Little Cherry, I’m going to wash my hands, do you want to join me?”

“Of course!”

Ying Bao stood up and was about to walk towards Huo Yunshen when Ye Xun pulled her hand.

“Come on, my daughter,” Ye Xun said. “Let daddy go with you. You should keep your distance from strangers.”

“But Uncle Dimple is not a stranger!” Ying Bao said. “When I have enough money I can buy Uncle Dimple home to become my dad.”

Huo Yunshen was happy to hear what Ying Bao had just said. How he wished that he had a smart daughter like her.

Ye Xun looked at Ying Bao, feeling as if another knife had stabbed him in his heart.

Both beauties, big and small, had decided to leave him,

Ying Bao struggled free of Ye Xun’s grip and ran to Huo Yunshen. Huo Yunshen picked her up and placed her on his lap.

Xu Xiyan pushed both of them into the bathroom as Ye Xun looked at them with his heart broken.

The dinner table was set with a huge steamboat in the middle, while ingredients were placed as decoration around the pot. Xu Xiyan even got every person their own set of condiments.

“All right, let’s eat,” Huo Sanyan shouted as she was about to throw a few kinds of vegetables into the pot, but was stopped by Ye Xun immediately.

“What the hell do you think you’re doing?” Ye Xun scolded. “Don’t you know that you should put the meat in first?”

“You’re right. My husband knows what’s best for everything!” Huo Sanyan replied with a huge smile.

“Don’t call me your husband!” Ye Xun scolded as he tried to hold back his urges to kick Huo Sanyan out.

“Oh, so you want to keep it a secret?” Huo Sanayan smiled and winked at Ye Xun. “Then I’ll call you Mr. Ye.”

“Where’s the wine? How are we supposed to eat without wine?” Ye Xun sighed.

“I don’t have any alcohol here,” Xu Xiyan said. ‘How about some other drinks?’”

“Right! We have to have wine!” Huo Sanyan said, trying to make Ye Xun happy. “I’ll go get some.”

Huo Sanyan went into Room 101 through the crystal door and returned with a bottle of expensive red wine from Huo Yunshen’s collection.

“You even know where I stash my wine?”

Chapter 440 - The Heat of Love

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen looked at his sister in awe, as he'd already kept his secret stash of good wine, secretly, in a place that no one would ever think of looking.

Is she a dog or what? Huo Yunshen scolded.

“Of course I do,” Huo Sanyan said. “I know every inch of your house. Anything that’s yours is also mine, right? Since I’m your sister and all. And what’s mine also belongs to Mr. Ye.”

Huo Sanyan was the type of person who would give everything she had to the person she adored.

Huo Yunshen was worried about her, as not many men would like the type of woman she was.

A girl that was sunk deep into love and would do anything for the guy she fell for.

“Mr. Ye, here, some wine,” Huo Sanyan said as she handed Ye Xun the wine and an opener.

Ye Mo took the wine without saying anything and opened it. He poured a glass for himself and drank the whole thing immediately.

“...” Huo Yunshen looked at Ye Xun speechlessly as Ye Xun drank the million Yuan wine like he was drinking a soft drink.

“Let me join you,” Huo Sanyan offered and pour a glass for herself, too.

Xu Xiyan knew that Ye Xun was a person who always cared for his own pride, and meeting Huo Yunshen had made him lose all of it.

That was the reason he was down and allowed Huo Sanyan to drink with him.

Xu Xiyan ignored Ye Xun and spooned some of the food into Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao's bowls.

"Mr. Huo, eat as much as you'd like," Xu Xiyan smiled.

"Yeah, you too."

The food was good, mainly because Xu Xiyan had taken a long time to stew the broth.

It was different from what they could get in restaurants. The broth she had made was from fresh, authentic ingredients.

In Huo Yunshen's head, Xu Xiyan was the best woman that any man could marry. Not only could she cook, but she could also even fend off bad guys herself.

As Ye Xun sat opposite Huo Yunshen and Xu Xiyan, all of their lovey-dovey actions were all seen by him, and it made him feel even worse.

All he could do was drown his emotions with alcohol.

After Ye Xun and Huo Sanyan finished a whole bottle, Huo Sanyan jogged into Room 101 and grabbed a few more bottles.

Huo Yunshen shook his head as he saw his own sister trying to calm Ye Xun down. He could not help but sigh at how bad his sister was at courting.

"Come on, little brother. It's just a few bottles of wine, what are you angry about?" Huo Sanyan said, as she thought Huo Yunshen angry at her for drinking his wine. "Fine, why don't you drink with us?"

"No thanks."

Huo Yunshen had been clean from alcohol for a very long time. There was no way he would take the risk of getting drunk in front of the person he loved.

“Are you serious?” Ye Xun, who was a little drunk at that time, scolded. “You’ve already taken away my woman, now you’re refusing to drink with me?”

“Mr. Huo, drink with him!” Xu Xiyan encouraged, scared that Ye Xun might spout something serious.

Huo Yunshen nodded. There was no way he would refuse when his wife was giving the orders.

Huo Yunshen picked up the glass and drank with Ye Xun.

He initially just wanted to drink a glass as a gesture, but Ye Xun kept asking for more, and he could not refuse.

Just as the broth in the pot was nearly finished, Ye Xun was fully drunk.

“Huo Yunshen, listen well...”

Chapter 441 - Already Won

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Huo Yunshen, listen well,” Ye Xun muttered. “If not for you, Xiao Xixi would’ve been with me by now. You took away my woman.”

Xu Xiyan shook her head, afraid that Ye Xun might spout some nonsense.

“Stop it,” Xu Xiyan said as she put vegetables into Ye Xun’s bowl. “Eat something.”

“No, I’m not stopping,” Ye Xun scolded as he stood up with the wine in his hand. “Why are you so lucky? I’ve been waiting for her for five years, and she suddenly decided to follow you without asking anything in return. How did that happen? I don’t think you’re even better looking than me...”

Xu Xiyan already had her hands over her face, trying to hide her awkwardness. Stop it... You’re very handsome, I’ll give you that. But to me, no one would be better than Mr. Huo!

Huo Yunshen remained calm as he stared at the man who wasn’t willing to give up.

“You’re drunk, stop it,” Xu Xiyan said worriedly, afraid that Ye Xun would do something stupid. She quickly rushed to his side and tried to put him back into his seat.

But Ye Xun pushed Xu Xiyan away. He fell onto the ground in front Huo Yunshen and hugged his legs.

“What are you doing?” Xu Xiyan shouted, worried that he might harm Huo Yunshen.

Everyone had their eyes on Ye Xun, who was hugging Huo Yunshen’s legs tightly.

“But what can I do? You’re my boss,” Ye Xun said. “I give up, I won’t come between the two of you anymore.”

“...” Xu Xiyan looked at Ye Xun. What did he just say? Since when did Huo Yunshen become his boss? He’s definitely drunk.

Huo Yunshen continued to stare at Ye Xun. He wanted to tell him that it wouldn’t matter if he gave up or not, whatever he chose to do would never change the relationship between him and Xu Xiyan.

He wanted to tell him that Xu Xiyan was already his woman, that he had already won.

“Miss Huo, a little help?” Xu Xiyan asked as she tried to pick Ye Xun up. She was terrified of what Ye Xun might do next and decided to not let it happen.

Huo Sanyan came to Ye Xun’s side and pulled Ye Xun away from Huo Yunshen with Xu Xiyan.

“He’s drunk,” Xu Xiyan said as she looked at Ye Xun who wasn’t able to stand still anymore. “Let’s get him back.”

“Okay.”

The two women carried Ye Xun back to Room 104 and threw him onto his bed.

“Miss Huo, I’ll have to go back and take care of them,” Xu Xiyan said while Ye Xun lay on the bed unconsciously.

“About Ye Xun...”

“Don’t worry, leave him to me.” Huo Sanyan was willing to take care of Ye Xun as if it was her responsibility.

“Okay, thank you,” Xu Xiyan said and went back to Room 102.

Only Huo Sanyan and Ye Xun were left in the room.

“Do you want some water?” Huo Sanyan asked.

“Hot...” Ye Xun muttered as he undid the top button of his shirt. He was heating up from the alcohol that he’d consumed. Huo Sanyan reached out her hand and helped him unbutton his shirt.

With the shirt unbuttoned and pulled to the side, Ye Xun's muscular chest and perfect abs were in full view.

Huo Sanyan marveled at Ye Xun's perfect body as she swallowed her own saliva.

If I don't make use of this chance, it would be a crime, right?
Huo Sanyan wondered.

...

Xu Xiyan went back to Room 102 and noticed that Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao had already come out from the dining room and were chatting in the living room.

"I have a nephew who's only two years older than you, do you want to play with him?"

Chapter 442 - Finally Found Her Father

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“But I don’t know him...” Ying Bao said. Ying Bao would rarely play with kids that she wasn’t acquainted with, and she only had a handful of friends. The only kid that she’d actually get to know after returning back was Tang Feimo.

“Then I’ll introduce you to him,” Huo Yunshen said. He knew that his father and mother were fans of Ying Bao and wanted to bring her back for them to meet her.

“Okay,” Ying Bao nodded and saw her mother coming back. “Xi Baby, Uncle Dimple invited me over to his house tomorrow, can I go?”

“Of course you can.”

“Yay! Mummy, you’re the best!” Ying Bao cheered as she jumped on the couch. She was so excited that she forgot to keep her relationship with Xu Xiyan a secret.

“What did she just call you?” Huo Yunshen asked, turning his head to look at Xu Xiyan.

“Cherry, why don’t you tell him our secret?” Xu Xiyan smiled at Ying Bao.

“Uncle Dimple, we’ve been hiding something from you,” Ying Bao said as she climbed into Xu Xiyan’s arms. “Xi Baby is actually my mother. My birth mother.”

Xu Xiyan had already told Ying Bao before they came over that she could tell Uncle Dimple their little secret.

Ying Bao pressed her lips against Xu Xiyan face and kissed her. Both of them smiled like two pretty flowers in front of Huo Yunshen.

“What?” Huo Yunshen looked at both of them. Ying Bao is Xu Xiyan’s daughter? She already has a daughter this big?

Xu Xiyan couldn’t take it anymore and burst into laughter.

“Mr. Huo, don’t you think that Ying Bao has something in common with you?” Xu Xiyan asked.

The most evident identical things they had were the dimples, and that they were both allergic to peanuts.

“Are you telling me... that Ying Bao is... is my...”

“Yup, she came into my life five years ago,” Xu Xiyan said apologetically. “I’m sorry for keeping it from you for such a long time.”

“...” Huo Yunshen could feel his heart beating like a drum as if it was trying to jump out from his chest. Doesn’t this mean that Ying Bao is my daughter?

The happiness was too sudden and tears filled his eyes. He looked at the two ladies in front of him, and his heart melted.

He had always been depressed for having the thought that he might live into old age alone. He’d never in his wildest dreams thought that Xu Xiyan would not only be by his side forever, but that he’d also have a cute little daughter who loved him.

He couldn’t believe the luck he was having.

He felt stupid, wondering why he’d never questioned Xu Xiyan’s relationship with Ying Bao.

If he’d guessed sooner, he might’ve been able to skip a few tripping stones.

“Cherry... Come, come to daddy...” Huo Yunshen said gently with tears in his eyes. “Let daddy take a good look at you.”

“Mummy, Uncle Dimple just called himself my dad!” Ying Bao said excitedly as she tilted her head and looked at Xu Xiyan.

“Yup. You’ve always wanted to buy Uncle Dimple, right? He’s willing to become your daddy for free. From now on, he’s your daddy.”

“Really? Yippie! I finally have the world’s greatest daddy!”

Ying Bao waved her hands excitedly from Xu Xiyan’s arms and asked her mummy to let her down. She could not wait to jump into her newly found father’s hug.

Chapter 443 - Kiss to His Heart's Content

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The cute little girl jumped into Huo Yunshen's arms. The man hugged his daughter tightly. Even though this wasn't the first time he hugged her, it felt like it was the real first time. It felt like he had the whole world in his hands.

He thanked God that he'd finally gotten a daughter. A daughter that was already four years old.

"Cherry, you still have to go to your daddy's house tomorrow," Xu Xiyan reminded. "You have to sleep earlier. Let's go get you cleaned up."

But it really was an excuse for Xu Xiyan to have some alone time with Huo Yunshen.

"Ok! Ok!" Ying Bao smiled as she hung around Huo Yunshen's neck like a koala. "But I want daddy to take me to the bathroom."

"All right," Huo Yunshen said and turned his wheelchair towards the bathroom. "Let's go."

"Mr. Huo, why don't you head back?" Xu Xiyan asked, standing at the door after Ying Bao had gone inside the bathroom. "I'll have to put her to sleep and tidy the kitchen after this."

"No worries. I still have to tell her a bedtime story, too."

There was no way Huo Yunshen would leave after he'd finally met his daughter.

He would never want to leave either of the girls. He wished to stay with them every second for the remainder of his life.

“Okay, then I’ll clean her up first.”

Xu Xiyan closed the door behind her and prepared a bubble bath for Ying Bao.

The little girl sat in the bathtub and played with bubbles happily.

Huo Yunshen could hear Ying Bao’s laughter and singing coming from the bathroom, and he couldn’t help but smile.

After waiting outside the bathroom for a few minutes, Huo Yunshen wheeled himself to the kitchen and started to help Xu Xiyan tidy a little. He later went back to Room 101 to find a storybook for Ying Bao.

After Ying Bao had finished her bath, she jumped onto the bed, and Huo Yunshen began to tell her a story.

After Xu Xiyan finally finished tidying the kitchen, she went into the bedroom and saw that Ying Bao had already fallen asleep. Huo Yunshen was putting a blanket over her.

“Jing Xi, come here,” Huo Yunshen said when he noticed Xu Xiyan was standing by the door.

Just as Xu Xiyan approached him, he grabbed her hand and pulled her down.

Before she could even react, she landed her head on Huo Yunshen’s chest.

Her heart was beating like crazy. She had no idea how to respond to Huo Yunshen’s sudden eagerness.

She’d always thought that Huo Yunshen was a gentle and shy person, but she had a feeling now that she might’ve been wrong.

The man was using his actions to prove what kind of person he was: dark, bossy, and wild like a wolf.

Huo Yunshen grabbed the back of Xu Xiyan’s head with one hand and her waist with the other. With her body sticking close to his chest, he began to kiss her wildly.

Ever since Xu Xiyan had saved him from despair and kissed him, he found it hard to control his feelings any further.

He yearned for her kiss for the past few days, and now he was kissing her to his heart's content.

He finally had the chance.

His kiss was wild but also gentle.

All of his true feelings were put into the kiss.

Xu Xiyan could smell the faint aroma from the wine as she began to wonder why the kiss became sweeter as time passed by.

From her head to toes and in her limbs and her every cell, she could feel the sweetness from the kiss.

Chapter 444 - It Might Escalate

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen finally learned the meaning of the words “kissing your loved one is like drinking alcohol.”

Xu Xiyan finally loosened up and followed his rhythm. She finally gave in and started to enjoy the kiss.

Xu Xiyan had also yearned for the same thing.

In the quiet room, the temperature began to rise.

The kiss was long that they sometimes found it hard to breathe.

Xu Xiyan could feel her body heating up as her strength left her.

Huo Yunshen could also feel the thing between his legs tighten and begin to react. He wanted her so much, but he stopped kissing her just before things escalated.

He withdrew his lips from hers, and the girl gasped for air while resting her head on his chest.

Lights reflected off her lips, and it was sexy as hell.

Huo Yunshen took the chance while Xu Xiyan was breathing hard, he lowered his head and bit her red lips lightly.

“You stupid girl, why did you hide it from me?” Huo Yunshen asked as he lifted her head up by her chin and stared at her lips.

“I’m so sorry...” Xu Xiyan apologized, her face turning red as she rubbed her head against his chest. “I didn’t know what

kind of person you were at first. I was afraid that you might take her away from me.”

“No, I’m the one who should be apologizing,” Huo Yunshen said as he hugged her tight and rested his chin on her head. “If I found you sooner, you would never have had to live such a cruel life. I’m sorry.”

That was why he’d vowed to give both of the girls all of the best in the world.

“Mr. Huo, let’s not apologize anymore, all right? The most important thing right now is that we treasure what we have. As long as both of us still live, we still have the time to watch the kid grow and make amends for the time we’ve lost.”

Xu Xiyan really wanted to stay with him forever. She did not want the things that happened in Estan the last time they were there to repeat.

She’d already felt what it was like to lose Huo Yunshen. The pain was unbearable; all she wanted was for him to lead a healthy and safe life.

“That’s right, the three of us, together.”

They talked about many things after that. Huo Yunshen even asked her what had really happened five years ago.

He had been waiting for her to tell him the whole story, and it was the right time to ask her.

Xu Xiyan told him everything, even the reason she chose to leave Zstan.

Huo Yunshen finally heard the whole story, how Xu Xiyan was sold out by her family and how she chose to cut her relationship with them.

Huo Yunshen hated himself for not being able to do anything when she was treated unjustly.

He didn’t even try to investigate the situation and even helped Xu Jinshan and Chu Yuhe with their jobs.

“What have I done? I’m really sorry... I really am... I didn’t even know that they were that kind of people. If I’d known, I

would never have helped them... I'm such an idiot.”

Huo Yunshen kept apologizing to Xu Xiyan. Even a thousand sorries could never express how bad he felt about himself.

“It’s not your fault, you have no idea about it. What’s more, you’re a victim too.”

Xu Xiyan never blamed Huo Yunshen for anything that had happened. She chose to tell him the full story to make sure he learned about their true colors,

“Don’t worry, it will never happen again! Your enemies are my enemies, and they won’t get off the hook so easily!”

“Thank you. Knowing that you’re with me is more than enough.

She really was thankful. Being protected by him made her feel that all the pain she’d been through was worth it.

“Then what did you do after you left the country? Where did you go?” Huo Yunshen asked.

“I went to Estan to find my mother’s brother. He got me a new identity, and I led quite a peaceful five years...”

Xu Xiyan told him almost all the stories about the things that had happened after she’d left the country, but kept the life she had with JS First Squadron a secret.

“Wait, isn’t your uncle Jing Zhannan?”

“Yup, that’s him.”

“...”

It was then that Huo Yunshen finally realized something. He vaguely remembered that the leader of JS First Squadron, Qin Ye’s, real name was Jing Zhannan, which made him Xu Xiyan’s uncle.

Back when Xu Xiyan and Huo Yunshen were attacked in Estan, Huo Yunshen had issued the highest priority order for Qin Ye to send someone to protect Xu Xiyan. Qin Ye had sent Dark Dragon to protect her, which meant that Dark Dragon could be Ye Xun.

Everything became clear to Huo Yunshen.

He'd ordered the whole JS Mercenary Group to look for Xu Xiyan but never found her, because Qin Ye had purposefully hid her from him.

Even when Huo Yunshen mentioned Xu Xiyan's name when he met with Qin Ye, Qin Ye never told him that they were related.

Could it be that Qin Ye doesn't want us to happen? Huo Yunshen thought.

Huo Yunshen sighed as he finally understood the whole story.

Qin Ye knew who Huo Yunshen was, a cripple and his leader, Zeus. Qin Ye also knew that Zeus had many enemies out in the world, and there was no way that he would let his niece date someone like that.

Even though Qin Ye had betrayed an order, he was still a good uncle to Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan did not notice the changes in Huo Yunshen's emotion and continued. "I was pregnant at that time. If not for Ye Xun, I would've given birth to Ying Bao in the middle of the road. That's why I've been in debt to him this whole time. If not for him, I don't even want to think of what could have happened."

"I'm grateful to him too," Huo Yunshen said. He thanked Ye Xun from the bottom of his heart for saving both of them and loving Ying Bao unconditionally.

"I have a small request," Xu Xiyan said. "Can we not tell the world about Ying Bao? I want her to lead a normal and healthy life."

The person she was worried about the most was Huo Yunshen's mother, as she despised Xu Xiyan. She was worried that it might harm Ying Bao.

"Okay, I get it. Only our friends and families are to know about this, no one else," Huo Yunshen agreed.

The room returned to silence as Huo Yunshen and Xu Xiyan looked into each other's eyes.

His arm stretched to her back and grabbed her waist. He pulled her closer to him and kissed her wildly again.

The only thing Huo Yunshen could think of at that moment was being closer with her all night.

Hours passed before Huo Yunshen went back to Room 101 unwillingly.

Yet even when they went to bed, they couldn't sleep. They were both still thinking of each other.

Xu Xiyan turned around and noticed the screen of her phone lit up. It was a message from Huo Yunshen.

[Still awake?]

[Yeah.]

[Meet me in The Royal Alliance.]

Xu Xiyan looked at the screen, puzzled. Could it be that he wants to play a few rounds before sleep?

Chapter 445 - Marry... Me

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyao touched the game icon on her screen and launched The Royal Alliance.

Xu Xiyao logged into the central city and noticed the red service notice kept popping up.

[Rank 1 player, Yun Qing, will be giving out equipment at the Magpie Bridge. Players gathered there will receive a full set of high-rank equipment.]

Xu Xiyao stared at the screen with her mouth wide open. What is Huo Yunshen doing? Giving out equipment to players who gathered at the Magpie Bridge? Does he even know how big the player base is?

Players who were logged into the game had gone insane as soon as they saw the notice.

[World] [Canghai Yimeng]: Seriously? This is insane!

[World] [Shuaide Yizao Hutu]: What the hell? What is happening?

[World] [Xu Mo]: We can get a free set of high-rank equipment at the Magpie Bridge? It's not a joke, right?

[World] [Badao Xiangtian Xiao]: Who cares! We might as well try our luck!

...

Even though Xu Xiyao might not have agreed with what Huo Yunshen was doing, she still flew to the Magpie Bridge instantly.

Before her character could even reach the bridge, she could see many players were already gathered around it.

The bridge glowed in rainbow colors and shone brightly.

As she flew closer, she could see the bridge was decorated with flower and rainbow-colored crystals.

It was pretty, as if she was in heaven.

In the middle of the crowd was Yun Qing, sitting on a White Phoenix that was hovering above the bridge.

Yun Qing did not wear her usual white clothes but a red dress, a huge contrast to the Phoenix and flowers around her.

A few players noticed that Gongzi Yaoye was also in the crowd and began to hope for something huge to happen.

Every player knew that Yun Qing and Gongzi Yaoye weren't a couple anymore. They were wondering if they would fight each other if they met.

They were waiting for the PvP between the two best players, but they were let down.

Suddenly, Magpie's singing could be heard from above and was played throughout every player's phone.

Thousands of white Magpie were flying towards the bridge from the southeast.

They began to swirl above the bridge and form a picture.

Or two words to be precise.

[Marry... Me]

The usually quiet Yun Qing suddenly sent out a message through the server.

[Gongzi, are you willing to fight the world with me?]

Yun Qing was asking Gongzi Yaoyue to marry her.

It was at that moment when the crowd realized the motive for Yun Qing to give out equipment. She wanted a huge crowd to witness her proposal.

Confusion was going through every player's head.

She really put a lot of effort into it, huh? A set of high-rank equipment for players who gathered here?

How rich can Yun Qing be?

Don't tell me the game belongs to him?

In truth, the company responsible for the game did not belong to Huo Yunshen. But because of the proposal, he'd bought the entire company.

[Marry... Me...]

Are you willing to fight the world with me?

Chapter 446 - Impressed by Her

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Gongzi Yaoye, or rather Xu Xiyan, saw the message and could only stare at it in awe and with mixed feelings.

The timid man had finally asked her to marry him.

Xu Xiyan remembered that she'd ask Yun Qing to marry her character because of a mission. Yun Qing agreed, and they held a huge wedding.

They didn't know each other behind the screen at that time; it was just a virtual wedding.

Yet, it was different now. He already had a place in her heart. To be able to marry Yun Qing again had different meanings now.

They'd taken a step further into their relationship, and she was happy about it.

But since Yun Qing suddenly asked for a divorce last time and it had hurt her, she did not want to accept Yun Qing's proposal that easily.

Gongzi Yaoyue jumped off his Kirin and walked up to Yun Qing.

He sent a message to Yun Qing in front of everyone else.

[Are you proposing to me? Why do you think I would accept? Are you regretting your actions? You didn't even give me a proper reason for ditching me, and now you want me back?]

As soon as the message was sent out, the whole server quieted down. Everyone thought that Gongzi Yaoyue might reject Yun Qing for ditching him last time.

Even Huo Yunshen sat right up and swallowed his saliva.

He'd already regretted what he'd done because what he did made Gongzi Yaoyue lose all his pride.

There was no way that Gongzi Yaoyue would accept.

Just as Huo Yunshen was pondering what to do next, Gongzi Yaoyue typed another message.

[Hahaha! I'm just kidding with you. I'm the one who's supposed to pop that question, not you. To the most beautiful woman, where your beauty could rival a goddess, Yun Qing, will you marry me?]

Xu Xiyan had not forgotten that she was playing a male character. It was normal for "him" to pop the question.

No one made even the slightest reaction, not even Yun Qing. They'd had no idea what Gongzi Yaoyue was planning, nor did they have any idea that he would be so cute and funny.

Huo Yunshen was totally impressed by Xu Xiyan's actions.

The worries were instantly gone, and his heart brightened up. It was like he was riding on a roller coaster.

The tides had turned, and it was Gongzi Yaoyue's turn to ask for marriage.

With the sudden turn of events, the crowd had gone insane as messages flooded the entire server.

[Accept him!]

[Marry him!]

[Or you could marry me...]

...

The two main characters looked at each other, and Yun Qing typed two words out.

[I do.]

Gongzi Yaoyue grabbed Yun Qing's hand and jumped onto his Kirin. Both of them rode on the beast and flew straight towards the chapel.

Chapter 447 - A Mysterious Gift

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

A rainbow pierced through the sky as Yun Qing and Gongzi Yaoyue flew off into the sunset.

As fireworks exploded, every player got a notification that they had received a set of high-rank equipment in their inventories.

A couple stood in the chapel as they became newlyweds in front of the priest.

Both of them said goodnight to each other and left.

Xu Xiyan looked at her friends list, noticing that Yun Qing was marked as her wife again. She smiled sweetly.

She couldn't help but wonder if Huo Yunshen would really propose to her in real life.

...

Both of them had a good dream that night.

After Huo Yunshen had his breakfast and went to knock on the crystal door, Xu Xiyan was finishing helping Ying Bao get ready.

“Cherry, are you ready?” Huo Yunshen asked.

“Daddy! Of course I am.”

Ying Bao turned around and showed her little backpack, there were a few mysterious gifts in it according to her.

With the backpack and a set of new clothes, Ying Bao looked like she was ready for her first day at pre-school.

“All right, let’s go then,” Huo Yunshen said as he extended his arms for Ying Bao to climb up.

Just as they were about to leave, Ying Bao suddenly thought of something and jumped down from Huo Yunshen’s leg.

“Xi Baby, I have to go tell Uncle Tree-Leaf that we’re going to daddy’s house,” Ying Bao said.

“It’s okay,” Xu Xiyuan stopped her daughter. “You know how your Uncle Tree-Leaf gets angry if someone wakes him up early in the morning. We’ll tell him later.”

“Okay!”

“I’ll take the kid to the hospital to meet my parents first,” Huo Yunshen said. “Then I’ll bring her to Huo Mansion to meet my grandfather, then after that...”

“You don’t have to tell me,” Xu Xiyuan smiled as she pushed Huo Yunshen out. “Ying Bao is all yours today, just do whatever you want. I’m not worried.”

Xu Xiyuan wouldn’t have to worry about anything, as Huo Yunshen was someone reliable.

What was more was that Ying Bao was his own daughter, and giving them some alone time would be good for their relationship.

Xu Xiyuan helped them up into the car and saw them off.

She went back to tidy up. Just as she was going out, she noticed that Room 104’s door was still shut tight.

Well, whatever. We’ll let the pig sleep.

Xu Xiyuan did not wake Ye Xun up and rushed to the studio.

Just a few minutes after she left, the man in Room 104 woke up naturally.

He turned, and his hand landed on something soft.

Ye Xun felt something was off and opened his eyes. In front of him lay a girl with her white back in full view.

And his hand landed right straight in front of her breast...

As Ye Xun thought of something, he quickly sat up.

He felt even worse when he noticed that the naked woman was Huo Sanyan.

His head began to clear up and started to remember bits of what had really happened after he was drunk.

But he couldn't recall how did Huo Sanyan ended up next to him in his bed.

Chapter 448 - Forced

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Ye Xun could only remember the nonsense he was spouting the night before.

“What the hell!” Ye Xun scolded as he kicked Huo Sanyan in the back. “Wake up!”

“Dear? What’s wrong?” Huo Sanyan asked as she opened her eyes slowly and rubbed them.

“Shut up!” Ye Xun shouted. Dear? What nerve!

“What the hell have you done to me?” Ye Xun scolded. He knew that he would never touch her if he were fully awake and aware. The only explanation was that the woman forced her way and slept with him when he was drunk.

Ye Xun scolded himself for not being careful enough. If word got out, others would definitely laugh at him.

“Mr. Ye, don’t get so frustrated,” Huo Sanyan said as she stared at Ye Xun’s angry expression, still believing that she did not do anything wrong. “I’ll take full responsibility.”

“Why don’t you take a look in the mirror? Do you think you can take the responsibility?” Ye Xun’s face darkened as the rage inside his heart continued to rise.

“Then, what do you want me to do?” Huo Sanyan asked as she waved her hands around. “We’ve already done it, I can let you do me again if you feel that you’ve been used.”

“...” F**k!

Ye Xun could not believe his own ears. Only this woman could act all innocent like that after forcing me to sleep with

her!

“Just hurry up and leave, you vile woman!” Ye Xun shouted.

Huo Sanyan saw that Ye Xun was angry and did not want to play with him any further.

“Yeah, why not have fun with me last night and regret it before you even put your pants on...” Huo Sanyan mumbled as she rolled off the bed and picked her clothes up. “I’ve heard that men are all like this, and now I believe it.”

“...” Ye Xun stared at Huo Sanyan speechlessly. Aren’t I supposed to be the victim here?

“How dare you said that after you’ve taken advantage of me while I was out cold?” Ye Xun scolded as he tried to hold back his urges to choke her to death.

“Oh, please,” Huo Sanyan said as she finished dressing. “I’m a victim here too, you know? You are the one who was drunk and wouldn’t let me go. Do you think a weak girl like me could get away from you?”

“...” All it took was one small mistake to ruin Ye Xun’s life.

The girl he loved had been taken away by Huo Yunshen, and his virginity by Huo Sanyan.

All of him, ruined by the Huo family.

...

“Cherry, I’ll bring you to see your grandpa and grandma first,” Huo Yunshen said when they were on their way to the hospital. “Don’t worry, they are good people.”

“Are they daddy’s daddy and mummy?” Ying Bao asked.

“Yup.”

“Yay! I’ve brought some presents for them!”

Ying Bao clapped her hands happily. She still had no idea that Huo Yunshen was her real father, but she wouldn’t mind since Uncle Dimple was the best father she’d ever had and she loved being his daughter.

Even though Ying Bao had no idea what her grandpa and grandma looked like, she'd already begun picturing them in her head.

She believed that they would love her like her great-grandfather did.

“Oh? Presents? What did you bring them?”

Chapter 449 - Getting More Suspicious

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen rubbed Ying Bao's head as a form of praising her.

"It's a mysterious present, it won't be a secret if I tell you," Ying Bao said as she hugged the bag like it was a treasure.

"All right. Remember to take them out when you meet them."

Huo Yunshen's heart brightened up as he looked at Ying Bao's cute face.

The reason he was so eager to bring Ying Bao back was because of his father's illness.

His father should've been out of danger, but his illness had suddenly come back, and the hospital had sent out a notice that he was in critical condition.

All Huo Yunshen's grandfather and parents had ever wished for was to see him build a family of his own.

But now, his father might not be able to hold on that much longer.

Huo Yunshen had finally found his long lost daughter, and he thought he should at least give his father some relief.

Not long after their conversation, the van stopped in front of the General Hospital.

Huo Yunshen got out with Ying Bao. Both of them walked into the hospital through the VIP entrance along with a few bodyguards and assistants.

Just as Huo Yunshen was about to push the door into the VIP unit open, Ying Bao pointed at her mask and asked, “Daddy, can I take this off?”

“You can keep it on if the hospital is too smelly.”

Huo Yunshen also had a mask on his face, not only to prevent people from snapping photos of them, but also because he was afraid that the little girl was not used to the intense smell of chemicals in the hospital.

“I’m not afraid of the smell,” Ying Bao said as she pulled her mask down. “Grandpa and grandma will not be able to see my face if I keep the mask on.”

“Okay,” Huo Yunshen smiled and took the mask from her before he pushed the door open.

Huo Zhen was lying on the bed with many tubes attached to his body. The line on the ECG monitor kept jumping up and down.

Chen Yunlu was sitting beside the bed, resting her head on her arms.

“Mum!” Huo Yunshen greeted, waking Chen Yunlu from her sleep.

“Yunshen?” Chen Yunlu greeted back. “Why are you here? Didn’t I tell you to go back and get some rest?”

“I’ve gotten enough rest,” Huo Yunshen said and turned his head to look behind him. “Look who I brought.”

“Who?” Chen Yunlu asked as she looked behind Huo Yunshen. “There’s no one there.”

“Hello!” Ying Bao greeted as she peeked from behind the wheelchair.

Chen Yunlu became fully awake as soon as she heard the greeting from a cute voice.

She realized that a little girl was standing behind Huo Yunshen. Her eyes widened the instant she saw the little girl as she noticed who she was.

“Wait... Isn’t this... from the live stream... Cherry Baby?”

“Yup, that’s her,” Huo Yunshen introduced Ying Bao to his mother.

“Nice to meet you, grandma,” Ying Bao greeted while she raised a side of her dress up slightly and bowed. “Not only am I Cherry Baby, but I’m also grandpa and grandma’s granddaughter.”

“...” Chen Yunlu was stunned by the way Ying Bao addressed her.

Everything was getting more and more suspicious.

The little girl looked exactly the same as Huo Yunshen when he was a kid...she even had the same dimples.

Chen Yunlu stood up with her mouth wide open and walked towards the little girl. She kneeled in front of Ying Bao to get a good look at her face.

“Yunshen, could it be... that this kid...”

Chapter 450 - Like A Precious Treasure

Chapter 450: Like A Precious Treasure

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Sorry, Mom, there’s something I’ve been hiding from you.”

Huo Yunshen stroked Ying Bao on her head as he explained.

“This child is your granddaughter.”

“ ... ”

Chen Yunlu suddenly teared up upon hearing her son’s words.

She was completely, utterly shocked.

“She’s really my granddaughter? I can’t believe it... I really can’t... Did you deliberately get her to pretend to be my granddaughter so you could make me feel better?”

“Mom, she is really my daughter.”

Huo Yunshen took out a paternity test report. The report was given to him by Xu Xiyan so he could use it as evidence.

Chen Yunlu took the paternity test report from him and looked at it. Despite being overjoyed, she still reprimanded him, “Oh Yunshen, why didn’t you tell us that you have such a fine child? Why didn’t you tell your parents earlier? Why did you keep it a secret from us? Don’t you know what our biggest wish is?”

“I know. I’m sorry, mom. I just found out about her recently, myself,” Huo Yunshen explained apologetically.

Chen Yunlu was very convinced that the blood of the Huo family ran deep in Ying Bao.

She believed in the strong impact that genes can make on one's appearance. Looks cannot deceive, and the feeling of intimacy that came with a blood relationship is never wrong.

Chen Yunlu was weeping with joy. She lifted a hand to wipe away her tears and gazed at the little girl's face, taking a good look at her again and again.

Back when she'd seen the girl on TV, she thought that she really resembled Yunshen when he was still a child.

How she had wished for her son to have such a smart and quick-witted child like Cherry Baby. Today, that dream had unexpectedly come true. She was so happy, truly happy, and unspeakably happy!

At this moment, she was completely immersed in the joy of having a precious granddaughter. She spread her arms and said, "Come here, baby, let Grandma have a good look at you."

Ying Bao went into Chen Yunlu's arms obediently and stood still as she let her grandmother take a good look at her.

While Chen Yunlu was looking at her, she was also appraising her grandmother.

Ying Bao noticed that this grandmother did not look like the grandmother she had imagined in her mind before coming here.

In her storybooks, the grandmothers were small and short with hunched backs, and they usually wore scarves on their heads or walked with a cane.

But the grandmother in front of her was not old at all.

The little girl was not one to beat around the bush. She immediately praised her grandmother, "Grandma, you are really young!"

Chen Yunlu was delightfully amused by the little girl's words. She hugged her tightly, "Oh my, why are you so good at talking? Why is your mouth so sweet?"

Chen Yunlu loved the child so dearly. The little girl was like a precious treasure she could not bear to part with.

Ying Bao rolled her large eyes around the room, looking at the medical instruments in the ward. She asked, “Grandma, I heard that Grandpa is sick. When is Grandpa going to get better?”

Chen Yunlu felt her nose begin to run again. She caressed the child’s cheek and said, “Soon. If Grandpa knows that he has such a lovely little granddaughter like you, he might recover faster.”

“Can I see my grandfather?” Ying Bao said earnestly.

“Of course, Grandpa has been waiting for you. Come, let me bring you to Grandpa.”

Chen Yunlu stood up and led the child to her husband’s bed.

After observing what had happened so far, Huo Yunshen breathed a sigh of relief. He was originally worried that Ying Bao might become nervous, but now he realized that Ying Bao had behaved better than he had expected.

He left Ying Bao in his mother’s care and went to look for the doctor in charge.

Chen Yunlu carried Ying Bao up in her arms. From above, Ying Bao could see Huo Zhen’s face clearly.

There was an oxygen tube in Huo Zhen’s nose as he lay on the bed with his eyes closed. The sight of him made Ying Bao feel like waking him up.

“Grandpa! Grandpa...”

The little girl called out to him again and again. Chen Yunlu leaned in to speak in his ear, “Dear, please wake up soon. Look who’s here to see you?”

...

Chapter 451 - Very Astonished

Chapter 451: Very Astonished

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Do you know that you have a granddaughter now? Open your eyes and look at your eldest granddaughter! See how cute she is!”

The man on the bed did not respond. Ying Bao remembered that she had brought a gift. “Grandma, I’ve brought a gift for Grandpa,” she said.

“Oh? You have a gift for him?” Chen Yunlu asked, pleasantly surprised.

“Please let Baby down.”

Ying Bao got down from Chen Yunlu’s arms. She went over to open her small backpack and pulled out a roll of paper from it.

After that, she climbed up onto the chair and leaned on the bed, holding up the roll of paper. “Grandpa, Baby has brought you a gift! Look!”

Worried that her grandfather could not see her gift, the little girl unrolled the paper and tried her best to hold it out directly in front of him. “Grandpa, Grandpa, look...”

Chen Yunlu realized that the child had drawn a picture for him. It was a childish painting of an old man with a long beard.

“Look, dear, your granddaughter has painted a portrait for you. This is the child’s gift for you, why won’t you open your eyes and see?”

Ying Bao found that she could not wake her grandfather. She turned, asking her grandmother, “Grandma, does Grandpa not like Baby’s gift?”

“No, Grandpa likes it. Wait till Grandpa wakes up and sees it, I’m sure he will love it very much.”

Tears fell from Chen Yunlu’s eyes. In the past few days, her eyes hadn’t been dry at all.

Her husband was still struggling for his life and was on the verge of dying, yet she was powerless to do anything about it. Her anxiety had sapped all of her mental energy.

Now that she had finally found her granddaughter, she really wished that her husband would open his eyes and look at her.

“Don’t cry, Grandma. Baby has a gift for you, too!”

Ying Bao reached out to wipe the tears from Chen Yunlu’s cheeks, then took out something from her little backpack and placed it in Chen Yunlu’s hand.

“What’s this?”

Chen Yunlu looked at the small transparent bottle in her hand. There were some colored beans in it.

“These are happy beans. Mommy said that if you eat happy beans, you will become happy.”

Chen Yunlu’s heart was filled with gratitude. She thanked God for his kindness for granting them such a well-behaved granddaughter.

Also, the child mentioned her “mommy.” Chen Yunlu was curious. What kind of woman was able to give birth to such a cute baby with her son?

“Tell Grandma, who is your mommy?”

Ying Bao had been keeping what her mother had told her firmly in mind—she mustn’t tell anyone who her mother is.

She pursed her lips as she pondered. Instead of answering the question, she unscrewed the cap of the bottle with her small chubby hands and poured one of the beans out.

She put the bean into Chen Yunlu's mouth and said, "Try one, Grandma. Isn't it sweet?"

It was the sweet taste of a jelly bean.

Chen Yunlu nodded, then pulled the child into her arms again. "Yes, it's sweet, really sweet. You're Grandma's little happy bean!"

She understood clearly that this child's mind was more precocious than most children of her age. The little girl was very clever to shift the topic.

She had bested the television host. Why not her grandmother too?

Since she was not willing to tell her, Chen Yunlu did not press on. Anyways, as long as the child belonged to the Huo family, she was satisfied.

Huo Yunshen had gotten word of his father's condition from the doctor. The doctor said that Mr. Huo Zhen's chances of waking up were very small and advised that his family prepare for his funeral.

With a deep pain in his heart, he returned to his father's ward and looked around the room.

He saw Chen Yunlu sitting on the sofa under the window sill, having a conversation with Ying Bao.

He looked at his father's bed. His father was turning his head to look toward the window, raising one of his hands.

"Dad?"

Is dad awake?

Huo Yunshen was very astonished. He quickly steered his wheelchair towards the bed to check on his father.

Chen Yunlu heard her son exclaim. She looked up and saw Huo Zhen lifting his hand too. She stood up in surprise and rushed over to her husband's bed.

Huo Zhen's face was pale as he lay on the bed, but there was bright light glimmering in his open eyes.

Chapter 452 - This Is Really A Miracle!

Chapter 452: This Is Really A Miracle!

Translator: Larbre Studio Editor: Larbre Studio

“What’s going on? Your father... he...”

“Dad woke up! Dad has woken up...”

Both Huo Yunshen and Chen Yunlu looked as though they were about to cry.

They could not believe their eyes. Who would’ve thought that a person whom the doctor had warned about his critical condition many times would ever wake up miraculously?

“Doctor! I’m going to call the doctor...”

Chen Yunlu rushed out of the ward in her agitation to look for the doctor.

“Dad! Can you hear me? It’s Yunshen,” Huo Yunshen said as he looked at his father.

Huo Zhen struggled to twitch his eyelids. His eyes were still fixed towards the window as he lifted a finger and pointed at it.

Huo Yunshen traced where his father directed his finger and saw Ying Bao. He was even more amazed. Could it be that the little girl’s voice had awakened his father?

“Cherry, come over here, Grandpa wants to see you!” Huo Yunshen beckoned to the child.

Ying Bao hopped down from the sofa and ran over to him. She stood on her toes and clung onto the edge of the bed, calling out to her grandfather in a childish voice, “Grandpa, Grandpa, are you awake?”

Huo Zhen had really woken up. In his daze, he had heard a different voice. It was a young innocent voice, penetrating

through the thick fog in his mind and pulling him out from the darkness.

He stared at Ying Bao, trying very hard to force a word out through his teeth. “Che...rry...”

Although his speech was slurred, Huo Yunshen could still make out what his father was saying—his father was saying “Cherry.”

All of this proved that his father was really awake!

Chen Yunlu hurried back into the ward with the doctor. The doctor checked Huo Zhen’s vitals. Surprise clear on his face, he removed his surgical mask and said, “Mr. Huo has woken up and his vitals are stable. This is really a miracle!”

The doctor’s words meant that Huo Zhen would not die anymore.

Chen Yunlu felt a great burden being lifted from her chest. She covered her face as she broke down into tears. “This is great, this is really great...”

Huo Yunshen hugged Ying Bao gratefully. He felt that the real miracle was Cherry Baby.

If it weren’t for her today, his father might have never woken up again.

After his father’s condition had stabilized, Huo Yunshen brought Ying Bao back to the Huo family mansion to see his grandfather.

Huo Xun had suffered a greater blow recently. He had fallen ill and was hospitalized after learning that his eldest son was on the verge of death due to his stroke.

And when he was finally discharged from the hospital, he heard of Huo Jingtang’s attempts to seize power.

The two brothers were now fighting with each other. How could he not feel greatly distressed?

His anger had been too much for him and had caused his chronic ailment to relapse. He was now bedridden at home for his recovery.

In the Moxiang Residence, Huo Xun was lying in bed. A servant came in with his medicine and gently woke him up. "Master, your medicine is ready. Drink it while it's warm."

"Take it away. I don't want it."

After suffering from his illness for a long time, Huo Xun knew his own health the best. He knew that his chronic ailments could not be cured simply by drinking medicine.

Besides, his eldest son was lying before death's door. He was so worried that he lost his appetite.

He was so distraught at the thought of him, as an elder, sending away someone of a younger generation such as his son. How could he be in the mood to take his medicine and cure himself?

His servant was silent for a few seconds before speaking again. "Master, I've just heard that young master Yunshen is returning with a child."

Huo Xun did not even open his eyes as he asked weakly, "What child?"

"It is young master's child."

"How is that possible? Yunshen is still not married. How could he have a child? Did you see it with your own eyes?"

Huo Xun was assuming that his servant was only making up nonsense so he could persuade him to take his medicine.

"No."

It was true that the servant had not seen the young master bringing his child back with his own eyes. He had only heard it with his ears that young master Yunshen had called home and informed them about it. He wasn't sure whether it was the truth or not.

Huo Xun did not speak anymore and waved his servant away.

At this time, Huo Yunshen brought Ying Bao into the Huo family mansion.

Servants who had gotten wind of the news rushed out to look. They were curious whether the young master had really

brought a child home.

...

Chapter 453 - In Turmoil

Chapter 453: In Turmoil

Translator: Larbre Studio Editor: Larbre Studio

When Huo Yunshen appeared, everyone saw the little girl sitting on his lap. They were all very shocked.

So it's true that young master Yunshen has a child!

The child really resembles young master Yunshen when he was still a child.

Huo Yunshen went straight to the Moxiang Residence with Ying Bao and met with a servant who had just come out of the residence with a tray of his grandfather's medicine.

The servant was stunned to see Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao. After recollecting his wits, a look of pleasant surprise quickly appeared on his face.

Young master Yunshen has really brought his child back. How wonderful! Now there will be someone who is able to convince the stubborn family elder.

"Young Master Yunshen, you're back just in time. The family elder refused to take his medicine," the servant explained.

Huo Yunshen took the tray from the servant and said, "Okay, just leave it to me. You may go on with your business."

After the servant left him deferentially, Huo Yunshen wheeled himself into his grandfather's residence and placed the tray on the table.

The old man was lying on his bed with his back facing the door. He did not realize that his grandson had returned and thought that it was a servant who had come into his room again. He barked an order. "I said I don't want the medicine, get out!"

"Grandpa, why are you flaring your temper about again?" Huo Yunshen asked calmly.

Huo Yunshen's voice sent a jolt down Huo Xun's back. Huo Xun perked up an ear and asked, "Is that you, Yunshen?"

"Yes, Grandpa, it's me."

To set his grandfather's mind at ease, Huo Yunshen promptly told him the good news about his father waking up. "Grandpa, I have good news. Dad has woken up."

The elderly man finally turned over and sat up. "Really?" he asked, astonished.

"Yes, he has just woken up today. The doctor said that it is a miracle that he was able to wake up."

"Oh! Thank the heavens for this blessing!"

Upon hearing the good news, Huo Xun immediately let out a long sigh of relief and began to look different in spirit.

At the same time, when he turned his head to see his grandson's face, he saw a child in his arms.

The little girl was fair-skinned and doll-like. She looked just as cute as the charming and naïve looking porcelain doll which the temple usually gives away as a blessing for conceiving a child.

His grandson had really brought back a child. His servant had not lied to him.

Huo Xun stared at Ying Bao for a long moment. He could not believe his eyes. "This... this child..."

She looked exactly the same as Yunshen when he was still a child.

Huo Yunshen stroked Ying Bao on her head and said, "Cherry, go greet Great-Grandpa."

Ying Bao saw the old man who was just as old as her mother's grandfather and immediately knew who he was—he was her daddy's Grandpa.

"Great-Grandpa," Ying Bao greeted her great-grandfather obediently.

As soon the little girl called him “Great-Grandpa,” Huo Xun was at a loss for what to feel. His heart was in turmoil.

He had lived so long and was almost at the end of his life before finally seeing the day when four generations of the Huo family came together.

Perhaps Ying Bao looked too much like Huo Yunshen when he was still a child. If his grandson said that she was his daughter, the old man would not doubt it at all.

Especially that pair of dimples. They were unmistakably the genuine mark of his grandson’s genes.

“Oh! Good... good, good...”

Tears of joy flowed from Huo Xun’s aged eyes. He sat up and beckoned to the child, “Come here, let Great-Grandpa take a good look at you.”

Ying Bao slid down from Huo Yunshen’s lap and walked over obediently, blinking her big, dark eyes as she came to his bed.

Huo Xun looked at the child intently and carefully. The more he looked at her, the more confident he felt that this child was one of the Huo family blood.

“I’ve never thought that I would be able to see my great-granddaughter in this lifetime before I pass. I can die happy now,” Huo Xun sighed.

“Grandpa, you’ll be fine. Don’t say such ominous words,” Huo Yunshen said.

At this moment, Ying Bao suddenly chimed in, “You won’t die, Great-Grandpa. Great-Grandpa will live to two hundred years old.”

“Oh? Can Great-Grandpa really live to two hundred?”

...

Chapter 454 - Smothering Her With Love

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Xun was delightfully amused by her words.

Though the little girl looked small, quiet and well behaved, she was very clever with her words.

Ying Bao promptly picked up the bowl of medicine from the table and said, "If Grandpa takes his medicine obediently, then Grandpa will be able to live to two hundred years old."

"Hahaha..."

The intelligent little girl made Huo Xun laugh out loud. Where did she learn to persuade like an adult?

Huo Xun watched the child hold up the bowl of medicine unsteadily at him with her little hands and felt sorry for her. He took the bowl from her, tipped his head back and downed all of the medicine in one go.

Even if it was not for himself, he had to do it for his great-granddaughter. He had to work hard to live for a few more days.

After finishing the medicine, Huo Xun scrunched up his brows at its bitter taste.

Ying Bao saw his expression. She cocked her head to the side and asked, "Great-Grandpa, is the medicine very bitter?"

"Yeah, it's very bitter."

Ying Bao tucked a hand into her pocket and fished around for something. Then she took out a piece of candy and peeled off

its wrapper before handing it to him. “Great-Grandpa, if you eat this, it will get rid of the bitterness. Every time Baby is sick and has to take medicine, Mommy will let Baby eat a piece of candy.”

The little girl was too thoughtful.

It must have been her mother who had taught her so well.

Huo Xun was impressed that the child whom his grandson had hidden from him until today was more considerate and sensible than other children.

He opened his mouth and let his great-granddaughter put the candy in his mouth. “It’s sweet, really sweet. Great-Grandpa can’t feel the bitterness anymore,” he said nodding again and again.

With such a sweet great-granddaughter by his side, how could his life be bitter in the days to come?

“How old are you this year? What’s your name?” Huo Xun asked in a kind voice as he stroked the child’s head.

Ying Bao thumped her chest and introduced herself grandly. “Baby is four years old this year. Baby’s name is Ying Bao, nicknamed Cherry, and on the internet I’m known as Cherry Baby. You can just call me Baby, Great-Grandpa!”

“Ooooh, okay, okay! What a good baby you are!”

The old man was very happy. Despite just having met his great-granddaughter, he was already smothering her with love.

Seeing that Ying Bao had managed to coax his grandfather into taking his medicine, Huo Yunshen felt relieved.

They chatted with the old man for a while until the old man was beginning to feel tired and needed rest. Huo Yunshen let his grandfather have his rest and left the Moxiang Residence with Ying Bao.

While they were on their way through the Huo family mansion garden, Ying Bao looked around before calling out to him, “Daddy?”

“Mmm?”

Ying Bao flung her arms around Huo Yunshen's neck and called him again sweetly, "Daddy!"

"Aye," Huo Yunshen said in reply to her.

"Daddy!"

"Aye!"

"You must be the best daddy in the world!"

As Ying Bao wrapped her arms around him, she realized that she had really found the best daddy in the world. Her heart was overflowing with warmth and fuzziness.

"And you must be the best baby in the world," Huo Yunshen said, praising the little girl sincerely as he hugged her tight.

This little baby never failed to surprise and infect anyone with her warmth and innocence.

Huo Yunshen couldn't help but think that it must be a blessing from God that he and Xu Xiyan were able to have such a sweet and sensible child.

She's just so cute!

While they were hugging each other affectionately, they did not notice that there was a man under a big tree not far from where they were, watching their every move.

Huo Jingtang had immediately hurried back after hearing insider information that Huo Yunshen had brought his child back to the Huo family mansion.

He felt a chill in his body that stemmed from his fear as he watched Huo Yunshen holding the child in his lap. It was the kind of chill that ran from the sole of his feet to the top of his head, extending out to his limbs.

Huo Yunshen has a child?

Huo Yunshen already has a daughter?

Huo Yunshen's daughter looks to be four or five years old.

When did he have a child?

...

Chapter 453 Do I Also Need to Go to the Balcony

Harry nodded and gently looked at his daughter while he held her in his arms. “You can go and discover the old pocket watch secret, I will send people to protect you!” he said. Landon had been injured, and Harry had already visited him.

With her solemn face, Lola looked at Harry, and said, “But I don’t want to seek out for any treasures or some incredible wealth; it will cause us too much trouble.”

“If you don’t seek the secret, you’ll get into a lot of trouble anyway, and there will be many people who will cast their covetous eyes on the whole Li family,” said Harry. As long as the old pocket watch existed, trouble would be inevitable.

After Harry gently shook Sally for a little while, she fell asleep in his arms.

He then gently put her into another cradle and kissed her cheek.

After that, Harry, who had his arms around Lola, left the baby’s room and entered Nicole’s.

He turned on the dim light and saw that Nicole was sound asleep. After tucking Nicole in, Harry turned off the light and left.

He now had a wife and three children, and he was satisfied with what he had.

He went back to the bedroom, and placed his arms around Lola again. Since the two babies had been born, Harry hadn’t had the chance to hold Lola in his arms anymore while sleeping.

At first, Lola would sleep in their bedroom, but later she slept in the baby’s room.

Or she sometimes slept with Nicole to keep her company. She spent most of her time with her three children.

At night

Harry and Lola were silently laid in the bed, listening to each other's heartbeats. Harry kissed her on her forehead, and asked, "Are you still thinking about the old pocket watch?"

After she tossed and turned for a while in bed, and after she finally laid comfortable in Harry's arms, Lola nodded a yes.

Recently, Harry and her three children stayed almost all the time with her. She was so happy that she had almost forgotten the cruelties of day-to-day society.

"Don't think too much of it. Be brave, and go and look for the secret. Just remember that I'll forever protect you," said Harry. If he wasn't able to protect her, if he were to let her get injured one more time, he wouldn't be deserving of his title anymore!

Lola slightly nodded, and thinking that since she eventually had to face this sooner or later, she should man up and face it!

It was late at night, and Lola was now sound asleep. After looking at her slumbering face, Harry carefully got out of bed.

He then grabbed his phone, went to the balcony, and called someone. "How are the preparations going? OK, come to the manor at seven o'clock tomorrow morning... OK."

After hangi

When her sister ran away from the wedding, Autumn was forced to marry Charles.

His name had been linked to innumerable ladies.

He had different girlfriends for every day of a year.

Autumn had never thought that she would fall in love with him.

her is taking her annual leave now, so she can look after Sally. As for Nicole and our son, grandfather and father came over to the manor to take care of them," said Harry. He thought that she would now be more at ease, because their two kids were

now being looked after by several of his most trustworthy people!

Lola nodded, and wondered if they had left their three children just to enjoy their own sweet, selfish moments.

Weren't they responsible for their own children?

When she gargled, Lola slightly bent over, and Harry began to touch her in a more erotic way, while watching their reflections in the mirror.

Lola pinched his arm to stop him. After all, there were other people outside!

After she turned on the tap and adjusted the water's temperature, Lola washed her hands with the lukewarm water. She then turned off the tap and turned around, grabbing his face in her delicate wet hands.

When she saw that Harry slightly frowned, Lola happily said, "Ha-ha. Get out now, quickly!" She also caressed his face.

Harry, who was in a good mood, grasped her wrists with his large hands and pressed her waist against the wash basin. "You're really naughty, and you should be taught a lesson and punished!" he said.

He gently started kissing her lips, but eventually Lola pushed him out of the bathroom.

When she saw that the door closed by itself, Lola resumed washing her face.

After she dried her face with a towel, Lola saw that there was only one bottle of face cream on the counter, and wondered whether other of her skin care products were on the plane.

She checked around, but couldn't see any.

"Didn't you bring along my skin care products?" She opened the bathroom's door and asked Harry, who was patiently waiting for her outside.

Chapter 456 - Very Good At Charming Girls At Such A Young Age

Chapter 456: Very Good At Charming Girls At Such A Young Age

Translator: Larbre Studio Editor: Larbre Studio

“Daddy, where is the little big brother you told me about?”

Ying Bao had not forgotten that Huo Yunshen had said that he would introduce her to a little big brother and let her play with him.

“You will see him soon.”

Huo Yunshen took his child to look for his nephew, Lu Qiancheng.

Huo Yunshen found Lu Qiancheng in the willow garden of the Huo family mansion. He was playing with another boy called Tang Feimo, who was Tang Yichen’s son.

The two little boys were leaning forward on a stone table, playing a trading card game.

“Chengcheng!” Huo Yunshen called out to his nephew. Lu Qiancheng heard his shout and turned his head around. He saw his uncle coming over with a little girl and opened his eyes wide in surprise.

Not only did Ying Bao see Lu Qiancheng, but she also noticed that Tang Feimo was there.

She did not know who Lu Qiancheng was but she was very familiar with Tang Feimo.

Before Huo Yunshen could introduce them to each other, Ying Bao had already slid down from his lap. She called out as she ran over to them cheerfully, “Feimo!”

“Cherry!”

Tang Feimo saw Ying Bao was coming and immediately dropped the cards in his hands, then ran over to meet her.

“Hey, Tang Feimo, are you not playing anymore?”

Lu Qiancheng was frustrated at Tang Feimo’s “traitorous behavior.” He was beginning to get into the game but Tang Feimo abandoned it and ran off.

“Cherry, how come you’re here?” Tang Feimo asked, pleasantly surprised.

“I’ve come with my daddy.” Ying Bao turned to look at Huo Yunshen.

“Uncle Huo is your dad?” Tang Feimo was even more surprised.

“Yeah, he is my invincible super daddy,” Ying Bao said as she nodded earnestly, her heart brimming with pride.

Lu Qiancheng heard that the little girl said that Huo Yunshen was her father. Puzzled, he interjected, “He is my uncle. How come he is your father? Who are you? Where did a little radish head like you come from?”

Lu Qiancheng was a tall kid. As he loomed over Ying Bao, he thought Ying Bao looked very short and her legs were short and stubby. She looked just like a radish that could not grow very tall from the earth.

After being called a radish head, Ying Bao became visibly unhappy.

She put her hands on her hips, looked up at him and said, “You are the one who is the radish head! Your whole family is radish heads!”

Lu Qiancheng: “...”

What a fierce little radish head!

Huo Yunshen almost burst into tears laughing when he heard Ying Bao’s words of retaliation.

His daughter was not to be underestimated. Don't ever think of beating her in a battle of speech!

Seeing that the two were not getting along, Tang Feimo quickly interjected and made introductions, "Lu Qiancheng, let me introduce her to you. She is not a little radish head and her name is Cherry Baby. She is my little wife."

Ying Bao turned her little face at him puzzlingly and asked, "Feimo, what is a 'little wife?'"

Tang Feimo smiled at her, his eyes twinkling keenly as he explained, "It means that you're my little princess and I have to protect you forever. When we play house, you can play as my little wife."

"Oh." Ying Bao nodded, understanding.

Lu Qiancheng: "..."

The one who was the most dumbstruck was still Lu Qiancheng.

He and Tang Feimo were like brothers and were very close to each other, as they usually played together. Now he was confused after Tang Feimo suddenly said that he has a little wife. Since when did he hook up with the little girl behind his back?

Huo Yunshen, who was watching them from the side, chuckled in his amazement.

He thought, boys nowadays are very good at charming girls at such a young age. This generation is to be reckoned with.

It suddenly dawned on him that how lame he was all this while. A seven-year-old kid was better than him when it came to charming girls!

Ying Bao passed the afternoon at the Huo family mansion playing with the two boys.

When evening came, Huo Yunshen prepared to leave the Huo family mansion with Ying Bao. They had to rush over to the film studio to pick up Xu Xiyan.

Ying Bao had gotten close with the two little big brothers after playing with them. She had such a great time that she was reluctant to leave.

“Daddy, can Baby play with Chengcheng and Feimo again next time?”

...

Chapter 457: A Hint Of Possessiveness

Translator: Larbre Studio Editor: Larbre Studio

The little girl gave him a pitiful look that melted Huo Yunshen’s heart. He nodded earnestly and said, “Well, if you’d like, you can come here whenever you want.”

“Yay, that’s great!”

Ying Bao finally felt relieved. Before leaving, she turned and looked back at Tang Feimo, “Feimo, I still want to become your little wife next time!”

Ying Bao had spent the whole afternoon playing house. She had a great time that she wanted to play next time, too.

“Okay, sure!”

Tang Feimo was very happy. He waved to bid Ying Bao goodbye and watched them leave.

Apparently, Lu Qiancheng was also beginning to like the little girl. He wanted to try his chance, too. “Can you let her become my little wife next time?”

Tang Feimo turned his head around and refused in a serious tone. “No way! She can only be my little wife.”

“Tang Feimo, you’re so stingy!” Lu Qiancheng said.

“Since you said I’m stingy, I’m not going to play with you anymore. I’m going home, too.”

Tang Feimo turned his handsome little face away from Lu Qiancheng, and walked away in a huff.

Their friendship was like a fragile little boat that could be easily overturned at their whim. Seeing that Tang Feimo was

serious about leaving, Lu Qiancheng chased after him and said, “Can’t you let her be my little wife once? Just once...”

“No means no.”

“I’ll trade you my latest Transformers model.”

“I don’t want to trade. Cherry Baby can only be mine alone.”

Tang Feimo had already begun to show his domineering character and a hint of possessiveness at such a young age.

No one would have thought that the fates of the two little ones, Tang Feimo and Ying Bao, had long been decided.

If nothing went wrong in the future, perhaps they might grow up to become a happy pair.

Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao pulled away from the Huo family mansion. Before their vehicle had gotten far from the mansion, Huo Yunshen looked out the rear window and noticed that there was another car behind them.

His keen intuition and perception told him that the car was deliberately following him.

No matter whether they were the paparazzi or a reporter, Huo Yunshen had to stop them from following him.

Because Ying Bao was currently with him, he could not let her become a topic of discussion for the media and the public. It would only bring trouble to the little girl.

He called up the bodyguards who were escorting them, driving ahead of them, and told them to intercept the tailing vehicle and secure Huo Yunshen’s vehicle.

...

At the Eastern Suburb Film and Television Studios, Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao waited for more than an hour before Xu Xiyan finally was done with her shoot.

Xu Xiyan swiftly made her way and snuck into the vehicle, making sure she was not seen by the paparazzi at the same time.

The little girl was especially excited when she finally saw her mother. “Xi Baby, you finally came! We’re almost collecting dust here!”

“Sorry, sorry... the director wanted to shoot two extra scenes, otherwise I could’ve left earlier.”

Xu Xiyan put down her bag and sat down next to Ying Bao, then looked apologetically at Huo Yunshen. “Have you guys been waiting for a long time?”

“No.”

He would not have felt bored anyway even if he had to wait longer. Time passed especially fast when Ying Bao was there to accompany him.

Since Xu Xiyan had already gotten in, Huo Yunshen ordered the driver to start driving.

Xu Xiyan pulled Ying Bao into her arms and asked, “How was your day, Baby? You went to Daddy’s house today, right? How did you like it?”

Ying Bao raised her tender little face at her, smiling as she replied, “It’s really great. Grandpa and Grandma are fine. Also, Great-Grandpa likes Baby very much. Chengcheng and Feimo were also there to play with Baby. Baby is really happy.”

“Oh, that’s good then.”

Xu Xiyan knew that her daughter would not let them down.

“When can I go to Daddy’s house again?”

Ying Bao looked at her mother eagerly. She really wanted to play with Tang Feimo and Lu Qiancheng again.

“Well, that depends on your performance!”

Chapter 457 - A Hint Of Possessiveness

Chapter 457: A Hint Of Possessiveness

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The little girl gave him a pitiful look that melted Huo Yunshen's heart. He nodded earnestly and said, "Well, if you'd like, you can come here whenever you want."

"Yay, that's great!"

Ying Bao finally felt relieved. Before leaving, she turned and looked back at Tang Feimo, "Feimo, I still want to become your little wife next time!"

Ying Bao had spent the whole afternoon playing house. She had a great time that she wanted to play next time, too.

"Okay, sure!"

Tang Feimo was very happy. He waved to bid Ying Bao goodbye and watched them leave.

Apparently, Lu Qiancheng was also beginning to like the little girl. He wanted to try his chance, too. "Can you let her become my little wife next time?"

Tang Feimo turned his head around and refused in a serious tone. "No way! She can only be my little wife."

"Tang Feimo, you're so stingy!" Lu Qiancheng said.

"Since you said I'm stingy, I'm not going to play with you anymore. I'm going home, too."

Tang Feimo turned his handsome little face away from Lu Qiancheng, and walked away in a huff.

Their friendship was like a fragile little boat that could be easily overturned at their whim. Seeing that Tang Feimo was serious about leaving, Lu Qiancheng chased after him and said, “Can’t you let her be my little wife once? Just once...”

“No means no.”

“I’ll trade you my latest Transformers model.”

“I don’t want to trade. Cherry Baby can only be mine alone.”

Tang Feimo had already begun to show his domineering character and a hint of possessiveness at such a young age.

No one would have thought that the fates of the two little ones, Tang Feimo and Ying Bao, had long been decided.

If nothing went wrong in the future, perhaps they might grow up to become a happy pair.

Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao pulled away from the Huo family mansion. Before their vehicle had gotten far from the mansion, Huo Yunshen looked out the rear window and noticed that there was another car behind them.

His keen intuition and perception told him that the car was deliberately following him.

No matter whether they were the paparazzi or a reporter, Huo Yunshen had to stop them from following him.

Because Ying Bao was currently with him, he could not let her become a topic of discussion for the media and the public. It would only bring trouble to the little girl.

He called up the bodyguards who were escorting them, driving ahead of them, and told them to intercept the tailing vehicle and secure Huo Yunshen’s vehicle.

...

At the Eastern Suburb Film and Television Studios, Huo Yunshen and Ying Bao waited for more than an hour before Xu Xiyan finally was done with her shoot.

Xu Xiyan swiftly made her way and snuck into the vehicle, making sure she was not seen by the paparazzi at the same time.

The little girl was especially excited when she finally saw her mother. “Xi Baby, you finally came! We’re almost collecting dust here!”

“Sorry, sorry... the director wanted to shoot two extra scenes, otherwise I could’ve left earlier.”

Xu Xiyan put down her bag and sat down next to Ying Bao, then looked apologetically at Huo Yunshen. “Have you guys been waiting for a long time?”

“No.”

He would not have felt bored anyway even if he had to wait longer. Time passed especially fast when Ying Bao was there to accompany him.

Since Xu Xiyan had already gotten in, Huo Yunshen ordered the driver to start driving.

Xu Xiyan pulled Ying Bao into her arms and asked, “How was your day, Baby? You went to Daddy’s house today, right? How did you like it?”

Ying Bao raised her tender little face at her, smiling as she replied, “It’s really great. Grandpa and Grandma are fine. Also, Great-Grandpa likes Baby very much. Chengcheng and Feimo were also there to play with Baby. Baby is really happy.”

“Oh, that’s good then.”

Xu Xiyan knew that her daughter would not let them down.

“When can I go to Daddy’s house again?”

Ying Bao looked at her mother eagerly. She really wanted to play with Tang Feimo and Lu Qiancheng again.

“Well, that depends on your performance!”

...

Chapter 456 A Princess Charming

Harry tightly hugged her in his arms, and although he was unhappy about her being an actress before, he tried coaxing her, and said, “My wife succeeded in her career only on her personal competences, not her charms!” Although he wanted to say “yes” very much, he had no choice but to coax her in order to avoid being punished by her.

Lola couldn't help but smirk, and said, “That's my husband!”

Then, they went to taste some Bulgarian specialties together, including spicy roast beef and chicken liver. The town was not very big; it was just as big as a small village in China.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon when they finally finished visiting every place they had wanted to. The clouds were hanging heavy in the sky, with countless rays of light penetrating them and hitting the ground. It was beautiful. As the photographer, Lola, of course, immediately took many pictures of the splendid scene.

After they returned to Rose Valley, Harry took Lola straight to their room.

Joey was already waiting for them in the room, and there were multiple jars placed on the table.

When Joey saw the two people coming in, he bowed adequately and pointed towards the jars sitting on the table, saying, “Mrs. Si, look!”

Lola watched the way he acted and couldn't help but laugh. “Little Joey, how generous you are!”

Joey giggled, “Mrs. Si, please, don't call me this way. I am not accustomed to it!”

“How about calling you ‘Dear Joey’?” A cold voice was heard coming from Lola's back. Then, her shoulders were tightly held by Harry's big palms.

Emm... Harry seemed to be angry, so Joey immediately stopped smiling and stood still. "Boss, I'm sorry."

"Harry is so mean. I was just joking with his wife, it's not that much of a big deal!" Joey thought to himself.

"You're sorry?" Harry held Lola's hand and walked towards the jars, and then he turned around and seriously stared at Joey. "If you ever dare to have the same intentions as Chuck, I'll throw you back to Mando Bay immediately and confine you there for the rest of your whole entire life!"

...

The other two people in the room were left speechless when they heard his words; Lola had also probably known that Chuck was into her. But she was actually grateful that Harry liked her so much as to go to such lengths.

Who did she think she was? "A princess charming"? That she could please everybody?

Joey raised his hand and swore right away. "Boss, please rest assured! I never dared to have any kind

"Let's go and register our marriage on your birthday!"

Marrying Daniel should have been her best birthday gift, but everything was ruined the moment when she caught him sleeping with another woman on the day before her birthday.

"He's going to marry that woman! She... was my best friend!"
packages with a sad look on his face and then went to pay for the bill.

When they left their room, outside, it had already become sunny, and it seemed as if the previous thunderclaps had been just a mere illusion.

Joey looked up at the sky and sighed. Even God was mocking him! Why did he have to tolerate all of this?

Then, he glanced at the skin care products in his arms and felt bad about the money he had to spend on them. But when he realized that all of his money had been given to him by Harry,

he felt much better. He could just ask Harry to pay him back whenever he had the chance!

Yes! That was it!

Lola would not allow anyone else to say anything bad about her husband. She was the only one who had the right to do that!

However, when Lola thought better of the expensive cosmetics, she felt a little guilty, and she looked at the man who was now taking off his coat. “Do you really want Joey to pay for the bill?” she asked. She knew that the products were very expensive merely by hearing words like “natural” and “purely extracted from plants.”

“Don’t worry, I exactly know how rich he is! He’ll eventually ask for a refund later.” Harry had the final say.

Oh! Okay then. Lola felt relieved when she heard that. She was worried that this might trigger some sort of conflict between the two men. It seemed that she had overthought things...

It wasn’t even nine o’clock in the evening yet, and Harry had been urging Lola, who was still playing her cell phone, to come to bed.

“It’s too early to go to bed. It’s only half past eight now!” She rejected his offer. At home she was used to go to bed only after ten o’clock.

Chapter 459 - Listen To His Wife

Chapter 459: Listen To His Wife

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Mr. Huo, you’re going to spoil the child,” Xu Xiyan said.

“Cherry is such a good girl. I’m willing to let her indulge.”

“ ... ”

My God!

How could this man be so stubborn when it comes to pampering people?

In fact, Huo Yunshen was happy to pamper his wife and daughter to the extreme.

The sales assistant was beginning to scoop the lobsters from the tank with a net. He already had four lobsters in a bag before Xu Xiyan quickly stopped him. “Okay, okay, that’s enough. We only need that much. Four is enough.”

The sales assistant had been excited to pack all of the lobsters after the gentleman told him to do so. But now, this lady told him that they only wanted four.

Uncertain what they actually wanted, he asked, “Sir, just four?”

“Four is barely enough. Pack them all up.”

Huo Yunshen decided to buy more so he could rear them at home. Isn’t it great to have fresh lobsters whenever you want?

Oh right, it's not easy to keep seafood alive. He said again, "Oh, wait! I want to buy the tank, too!"

"..."

The sales assistant was dumbstruck. He had never seen anyone shop like that before.

Xu Xiyan smiled at the sales assistant apologetically. "Don't listen to him. We only need four."

"Jing Xi, you don't have to save money for me."

Huo Yunshen could buy this supermarket if he wanted. Why not a few lobsters?

Xu Xiyan took the bag of lobsters from the sales assistant, then turned and shot him a look. "I know that you have the money, but this is not how you should spend it. I am now your life assistant, and you have to listen to me."

Well okay. Huo Yunshen decided to listen to his wife.

After they were done with their grocery shopping, they returned to Shengshi Yujing.

Huo Yunshen was given the responsibility of looking after Ying Bao as they watched TV while Xu Xiyan was responsible for preparing dinner.

Not long after, Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi arrived with some fruit and milk.

After greeting them, Wang Dazhi joined them on the sofa and they watched TV together. Fang Xiaocheng decided to help out in the kitchen.

Before they knew it, dinner was served. The cooked lobsters were also served on the table and the room was overflowing with their aroma.

"Dinner time!" Xu Xiyan shouted towards the living room. Huo Yunshen heard her and took Ying Bao to wash her hands before going to the dining room.

Ying Bao sat in her toddler high chair and saw the steaming red lobsters on the table. She clapped happily. "Oooh! Finally Baby can eat lobster!"

“Dig in then!” Xu Xiyan urged Ying Bao to eat as she picked the lobster meat out of its shell and placed it in Ying Bao’s bowl.

There were five people but only four lobsters. Everyone had one lobster each except for Xu Xiyan.

Ying Bao noticed that her mother had no lobster of her own and asked, “Xi Baby, all of us have lobsters except for you. What should we do?”

“Xi Baby doesn’t want to eat lobster. You should eat, Baby,” Xu Xiyan said, smiling as she shook her head. She was used to reserving the good things for her child due to her motherly instincts she’d had since long ago.

“Have mine, Jing Xi.”

Huo Yunshen quietly placed his plate of lobster gently in front of Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan was surprised. “Mr. Huo, why would you give it to me? This one is yours.”

“I don’t eat lobsters,” Huo Yunshen explained.

If Xu Xiyan would not eat lobster, it was because she did it out of motherly love. If Huo Yunshen would not eat lobster, it was because he did it out of affection.

Though they were different forms of love, the essence of them was the same. Love would always make you want to give the best to the person you love.

Xu Xiyan understood him very well. How could he not want to eat it? He was definitely giving up the lobster so she could eat it!

She pushed the plate of lobster back to him, but he pushed it back to her again. They kept pushing the plate back and forth toward each other; it looked as if they were practicing Tai Chi.

At this moment, Huo Yunshen was feeling a bit frustrated. They hadn’t bought enough lobsters. He should’ve known to insist on buying all of them back at the supermarket. Now there weren’t enough for all of them to eat. See how awkward the situation had become now?

Chapter 460 - This Was A Good Thing

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi watched them both from the opposite sides of the table and could not take it anymore. They wanted to give up their shares too.

“You really don’t have to, both of you should eat! I can share one with Mr. Huo.”

Xu Xiyan no longer pushed the plate back at Huo Yunshen. Instead, she directly picked the lobster meat out of its shell and held it beside Huo Yunshen’s mouth.

As soon Huo Yunshen realized that Xu Xiyan was trying to feed him, all his frustrations were swept away. Good thing he hadn’t bought more lobsters.

Xu Xiyan was actually trying to feed him personally!

“I think I should help myself?” Huo Yunshen said.

Xu Xiyan was going to feed him in front of Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi. He was worried that they would laugh at him.

“Don’t worry, there are no outsiders here. Come on, Mr. Huo, try it and see whether my cooking is delicious,” Xu Xiyan urged him on.

She was so insistent. Unless he opened his mouth, she would not move her chopsticks away.

Well, here goes nothing. Huo Yunshen opened his mouth to take in the lobster meat.

Mmm. His wife's cooking was so good. Her craftsmanship was impeccable.

Mmmmm. The king lobster of the highest grade was so fresh. It was really delicious.

Ying Bao noticed that her mother was feeding her father and decided to imitate her. She scooped up a ball of lobster meat and held it out to her. "Since Mommy is feeding Daddy, Baby will feed Mommy now!"

Xu Xiyan turned her head toward her daughter and smiled as she ate the lobster meat on her spoon. "Okay! Thank you, Baby! You should eat more yourself!"

As they were all having dinner, the TV had not been turned off and the news was still on.

At the moment, the newscaster was announcing exclusive news. It was about the board of directors meeting of the Huo Group in Peijing.

Mr. Huo Xun, the chairman of the board of directors, had held the meeting and announced that he was officially handing over the position of chairman to his legitimate grandson, Mr. Huo Yunshen.

After hearing the news report, everyone cast looks of surprise at Huo Yunshen.

Fang Xiaocheng said, "Wow! Mr. Huo took over the Huo Group! How impressive!"

Wang Dazhi also praised him, "At first I thought it was a pity that Mr. Huo had resigned from Yunhai, but I never thought he would end up on a higher position. Congratulations!"

"..."

Huo Yunshen was very surprised himself. He had no idea when his grandfather held the board of directors meeting and handed power over to him.

When he had met his grandfather that afternoon, the old man did not mention anything about it.

Xu Xiyan believed that this was a good thing.

Huo Yunshen had given up Yunhai Entertainment, but in turn, he had taken over the Huo Group. This was equivalent to giving Huo Jingtang a heavy slap in the face.

Huo Jingtang had been competing against Huo Yunshen all this time and he thought that he had seized the biggest and the best prize. But the truth was, the more one did not fight for it, the better he would be rewarded.

Xu Xiyan raised her wine glass and congratulated him, “Congratulations, Mr. Huo. Your resignation was really a blessing in disguise.”

Huo Yunshen was a bit astonished. “I had no idea my grandfather was doing all this.”

“Maybe he wanted to give you a surprise. The Huo Group is in your hands now, I believe you can manage the group very well.” Xu Xiyan smiled as she gave Huo Yunshen a pat on his shoulder.

“Thank you, thank you all for your support. I will do my best.”

Huo Yunshen understood that the Huo family was currently going through bad times. His father was still in the hospital and his grandfather was not in good health. Furthermore, his cousin and his family were harboring bad intentions.

His grandfather had handed power over the Huo family to him at this critical moment. He must’ve hoped that he could become the pillar that holds the family together.

As a descendant of the Huo family, he was duty-bound to it.

“Yup, Mr. Huo’s management skills are recognized by everyone.”

Fang Xiaocheng was also very convinced by his capability. She said again, “After this news, no doubt Mr. Huo’s worth has doubled and is rising sky high.”

She had already heard from Xu Xiyan that she and Huo Yunshen had established a relationship, and Huo Yunshen had already learned about his child.

Things were starting to look up, Fang Xiaocheng thought. She asked again, “When are you both planning to get married?”

Chapter 461 - Worry Herself With A Second Child

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan had just managed to get into an official relationship with prince charming recently. How was she going to give an appropriate answer to Fang Xiaocheng's question?

However, Huo Yunshen quietly held Xu Xiyan's hand under the table as he gave a soft smile. "Whenever Jing Xi is ready."

The problem now was that Xu Xiyan wanted to keep a low profile and continue with her acting career. She didn't want to publicly expose their relationship at the moment.

Huo Yunshen also wished to wait until things settled down before discussing marriage. It would be best if it was the day when he was able to walk again.

"Oh, oh! That's great then! After Daddy marries Mommy, can I have a little brother? I want to play with him every day," Ying Bao said excitedly, almost standing up on her chair.

Huo Yunshen smiled awkwardly: "..."

Erm... everyone was thinking of the same thing, my daughter.

Xu Xiyan's face turned red all over. Her daughter was literally a worrisome little matchmaker.

It seemed that after worrying about their wedding in the future, she had to worry herself about a second child. Oh boy.

On the opposite side of the table, Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi were almost choking with laughter.

Both felt that it was a great thing that Xu Xiyan had Huo Yunshen recognize Ying Bao as his daughter and that they'd become a family of three.

Xu Xiyan was almost dying of embarrassment and quickly steered the topic away. "Careful Cherry, sit down and finish your food. The lobster won't be delicious after it's cold."

Satisfied that she had expressed her wish, Ying Bao sat back down in her chair obediently and continued eating her food.

At this time, the doorbell rang. Xu Xiyan stood up and went over to open the door.

It was Ye Xun and Huo Sanyan. Xu Xiyan invited them to come into the house.

After entering the house, Ye Xun automatically stayed away and kept his distance from Huo Sanyan. He did not want to give an impression that he had come together with Huo Sanyan.

Specifically speaking, it was Huo Sanyan who had come to harass him again. He had no choice but to go over to Xu Xiyan's place to hide from her. However, that did not stop Huo Sanyan from coming after him shamelessly.

He was fed up with Huo Sanyan. She was just like an annoying piece of gum that was stuck to him.

In fact, it wouldn't be easy for him to get rid of Huo Sanyan.

Though Huo Sanyan was not good at anything else, her ability to stalk people was nothing to sneeze at.

She was formerly an award-winning entertainment journalist. She had started out her career as a member of the paparazzi, and stalking people was her specialty.

After entering the house, Ye Xun discovered that Xu Xiyan had made a table full of dishes and invited a few people over for the feast. His face hardened when he realized that he was not one of the invited.

"Little Xixi, why didn't you invite me for dinner?"

Xu Xiyan said apologetically, “Sorry, Second Senior, but I didn’t think to prepare your portion of the meal in the first place anyway.”

Oh well. It seemed that Little Xixi was still holding a grudge against him. It was his fault and he only had himself to blame.

After entering the house, Huo Sanyan’s nose caught a whiff of the aroma in the air and she immediately rushed off towards the dining room.

She saw the feast on the table, as well as the steaming, aromatic lobsters. She was drooling at the sight of the grand feast. “My goodness! Did you make all this, Jing Xi? How could you not invite me? Why, you too, Brother! Why did you not tell me that you’re here? You really have no conscience.”

Huo Yunshen rolled his eyes at her. No way would he have informed a glutton like her.

Huo Sanyan really made herself at home. She went into the kitchen to get her own plate and chopsticks, then sat at the table and began to eat.

She didn’t even forget to remind Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi. “Come on, let’s eat. Don’t be shy, make yourselves at home.”

Huo Yunshen: “...”

Huo Sanyan had turned herself from a guest into the host. He really wanted to ask his mother: how did she give birth to such a shameless daughter?

“I’ve made a lot of food. Come, sit down. Let me get you a plate and a pair of chopsticks too.”

Xu Xiyan also placed a clean plate and chopsticks in front of Ye Xun.

After sitting down at the table, Ye Xun saw Ying Bao nestling in Huo Yunshen’s arms. He slapped on his thighs as he beckoned the child, “Hey, Daughter, come over here to Daddy.”

Instead of going over to him, Ying Bao tightened her arms around Huo Yunshen’s neck and said, “Uncle Tree-leaf, Baby

now has a Daddy and Baby wants to sit with him.”

Uh... was this an open act of rebellion?

...

Chapter 462 - Throw Herself Into Another Man's Arms

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Ye Xun's heart was bleeding after the little girl's words struck a great blow to it.

After all, he had personally raised this "daughter" of his by himself. How could he not be sad seeing her throw herself into another man's arms?

"Oh, how cruel! Both mother and daughter are so cruel! None of you wanted me anymore after getting a better man. I don't even have a place to cry here!"

Huo Sanyan heard him and immediately patted on her own shoulder. "Young Master Ye, if you want to cry, you can cry over here. I can lend you my shoulder any time and anywhere you need."

"Bug off!" Ye Xun glared at her. Why was she pestering him everywhere? How annoying!

"Are there bugs here? Are they biting you, Young Master Ye? Let me get the insect repellent for you."

The wiring in Huo Sanyan's brain had always been that strange. Her mind was never on the same wavelength as normal people.

"..." Ye Xun was speechless.

As Ye Xun observed the intimate interaction between Ying Bao and Huo Yunshen and their perfectly matched dimples, he seemed to realize something.

He finally understood why Ying Bao liked Huo Yunshen so much.

It couldn't simply be out of fondness for no reason. It might be because of a blood relationship.

Ying Bao must be the daughter of Huo Yunshen.

It was a bold guess and Ye Xun was sure he was right. He let out a long sigh as envy and jealousy swelled in his heart.

Oh well. If Xu Xiyan and the child were happy being with Huo Yunshen, he would bless them.

Nobody knew that Ye Xun's attitude had changed. Perhaps it had happened back at the time when he had discovered Huo Yunshen's mysterious identity, or perhaps it had happened after his accidental sexual relationship with Huo Sanyan.

He was no longer qualified to pursue Xu Xiyan. The only thing he could do now was to let her go and respect her wishes.

However, he would always protect both mother and daughter silently.

After dinner, Huo Yunshen accompanied Ying Bao in a game of pat-a-cake.

Huo Sanyan noticed that Ye Xun had been watching Ying Bao intently. She said to him, "Young Master Ye, see how cute Cherry is? How about we make a baby of our own?"

Ye Xun was rudely pulled back to his senses. He glared at her hatefully and bristled. "Who wants to make a baby with you! If you want a child, go make it yourself!"

Huo Sanyan wasn't angry or upset. She grinned at him and said, "Well okay, it's a woman's responsibility to bear a child anyway. You only need to contribute one single sperm. Who knows if your seed is already sprouting in my stomach and soon you will be a father!"

"..." Ye Xun was completely speechless. F*ck, what the hell was she talking about?

Was she not going to stop until she had completely ruined him?

Everyone turned to cast shocked looks at him. Xu Xiyan asked, astonished, “Did you two... do that...”

“No!” Ye Xun immediately denied it. He was so embarrassed that he felt like looking for a crack in the ground to squeeze into.

However, Huo Sanyan was being very blatant about it. “Young Master Ye, why won’t you admit it? Everyone is an adult here and having a sexual relationship is a very normal thing. Plus, I’ve already said you don’t have to be responsible for it, so don’t be embarrassed. You—”

“Why don’t you finish your food!” Ye Xun stuffed some veggies into her mouth rudely, plugging up her unshutable mouth.

But it was already too late. Everyone already knew what had happened between the two of them.

Xu Xiyan had already guessed that it must’ve happened at the time when he had gotten drunk. She laughed, “Second Senior, Miss Huo is a very good person. It’s not right to let her down.”

Ye Xun: “...”

He had enough of trying to explain himself. The more he explained, the more disastrous the outcome anyway.

“Oh, thank you, Jing Xi.”

Huo Sanyan was very happy to hear Jing Xi’s words of support. She continued, “You don’t have to call me Miss Huo anymore. Just call me Third Sister. That way we will sound more like family, don’t you think?”

...

Chapter 463 - Really Wanted to Kiss Him

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Okay, Third Sister, Second Senior, we’ll be waiting to attend your wedding banquet.”

Huo Sanyan gave a radiant smile. “Okie dokey! Who knows? Maybe you might be able to attend both the wedding and the baby shower at the same time.”

Ye Xun: “...”

Damn you, Huo Sanyan. Who does she think she is?

Who the f*ck is going to marry her and have a baby?

After dinner, everyone hung around until it was about eight or nine o’clock at night. Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi had to go home.

After escorting them to the door, Ye Xun volunteered to send Ying Bao home. “Come, Daughter. Daddy will send you home.”

Huo Sanyan didn’t want to miss the party. “Daughter, let Auntie escort you home too.”

“Who is your daughter! Don’t simply call her that!” Ye Xun scowled.

“Well, isn’t your daughter my daughter too? Why does it matter who she follows? Why segregate ourselves so cleanly?”

Huo Sanyan was nonchalant towards the matter. She pulled Ying Bao into her arms and planted kisses on her.

Ye Xun facepalmed: “...”

Oh my god...

He felt that Huo Sanyan was simply the most horrible virus in the world. She was so pervasive that she could forcefully intervene in every part of your life.

“Uncle Tree-leaf, Auntie Three-Eyes, you can go home first. Baby is going to live with Daddy and Mommy, hehe.”

Ye Xun was usually responsible for sending the child back to the Jing family house. But now, after having recognized her real father, it was not surprising that she wanted to live with her parents.

Ye Xun had seen how Xu Xiyan interacted with Huo Yunshen and guessed that their relationship had already been confirmed. Oh well, he could only let them stay together as a family of three.

After all the guests were gone, Xu Xiyan and Huo Yunshen were the only ones in the house with their daughter.

It was already quite late and Ying Bao was getting sleepy. Xu Xiyan bathed the child before tucking her in bed.

After the child fell asleep, she wheeled Huo Yunshen to the sofa and they discussed his new position in the Huo Group.

Xu Xiyan was more worried about this: “What would your cousin think if he learned about this? Will he think that your grandfather was favoring you? He finally seized power over Yunhai, and if he found out that he had lost the forest for the trees, will he become disgruntled?”

Huo Yunshen had already thought about the matter. “Don’t worry. I used to tolerate him in the past, but now, I won’t anymore. Do you know what my motto is?”

Xu Xiyan shook her head. “What is it?”

“I will not punish anyone unless they attack me first.”

His eyes were sharp as knives. “I’ve already established a line of demarcation between me and Huo Jingtang. If he dares to overstep, I’ll make sure he will suffer his own consequences.”

As he said this, he was exuding a stern air of arrogance and self-confidence.

Xu Xiyan was so smitten by it that she actually went over and sat on his lap and wrapped her arms around his neck. She lowered her head and said, “Do you know how charming you are now?”

Huo Yunshen: “...”

The girl’s supple body was like a nephrite pendant that hung around his shoulders. She was exuding a light and refreshing fragrance that intoxicated him.

This blessing had come too suddenly, catching Huo Yunshen off guard. His heart was about to leap out of his chest in his agitation.

She was sitting on an especially sensitive place, stoking the fire in his body to burn even more wildly. A certain part of his body was beginning to have a reaction, too.

He... He really wanted her. What should he do?

Xu Xiyan had had quite a bit to drink. Her fair and beautiful face was flushed with an alluring shade of red.

The slightly drunk woman was so close to him that their foreheads were almost touching, so near that they could exchange and take in each other’s breaths. His heart was beating in a chaotic rhythm.

She gazed at him for a while before placing her hand on his face, then closed her eyes and leaned in decisively to plant a gentle kiss on his cool lips.

This kiss came from the bottom of her heart and she couldn’t have stopped it.

She really wanted to kiss him. She really wanted to show him her encouragement with a practical act.

Chapter 464 - Another Round of Kisses

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The kiss was shallow, Xu Xiyan only rubbed her lips slightly against Huo Yunshen's.

"I'll stand by your side no matter what happens," Xu Xiyan said as she looked at Huo Yunshen affectionately.

"Jing Xi, thank you. Thank you for your encouragement," Huo Yunshen said. He appreciated the trust and support that Xu Xiyan had given him, thanking God for giving him such a wonderful woman.

Xu Xiyan was about to get up after feeling satisfied with the kiss. But before she could even do so, a force pulled her back down.

Their bodies were closer to each other than before as their body heat rose.

"I don't think that encouragement was enough, I need more from you," Huo Yunshen said as he wrapped his arms around her waist. "The more, the better."

His intention was clear, he needed another kiss.

"You do know that you're getting more demanding, right?" Xu Xiyan said as she bit her lips out of embarrassment.

"There's nothing wrong with that since you're my girl and all," Huo Yunshen joked.

"Hey! Who's your girl..."

Before Xu Xiyan could finish her sentence, the man in front of her grabbed her head and sealed her lips with his own.

Ever since the relationship had deepened, all they wanted to do every day was to stay by each other's side. Maybe that was the magic of love.

Both of them lay on the same bed at night with Ying Bao in the middle while they held hands.

Huo Yunshen asked Xu Xiyan about her plans for the next day before they slept.

"I just accepted a new job, I'll need to go and check it out tomorrow," Xu Xiyan replied.

It was the violin job that she'd accepted from the black market. The meeting had been pushed back because of her tight schedule.

Now that her own family was well-maintained, it was time for her to settle her own stuff.

"Just decline it, I don't want you to overwork yourself," Huo Yunshen said, hoping that she could go easy on herself.

"No, I've already agreed," Xu Xiyan said. "I'll at least have to go to the meeting first."

Now that Xu Xiyan had Huo Yunshen in her life, she could live without worrying about money. But she hoped that she could make her own money instead of relying on her man. Since Huo Yunshen understood what kind of person Xu Xiyan was, he did not pursue it any further.

If Xu Xiyan was ever in a pinch, he could still help her.

...

As this couple had a romantic night at Shengshi Yujing, another was in a bad mood.

Rows and rows of exquisite wine were stored on a shelf in a high-end condominium.

A man in a white sleeping robe stood in front of the shelf. His face was dark as he drank the wine in his hand in one go before throwing the glass on the floor.

The hate in his eyes was deep as if he wanted to destroy everything.

Xu Xinrou came out from the bedroom wearing a see-through robe. She stopped in front of the man and rested her hands on his shoulder.

“What’s wrong?” Xu Xinrou asked.

“I finally understood what Huo Yunshen has done,” Huo Jingtang scolded. “That’s why he willingly gave up Yunhai Entertainment, he was aiming for something higher!”

Huo Jingtang had finally learned the whole truth when he saw on the news that his grandfather had handed the whole Huo Enterprise over to Huo Yunshen.

Chapter 465 - Pregnant

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

It was Huo Yunshen's tactic, faking the enemy by taking a step back.

As soon as Huo Xun handed the power over to Huo Yunshen, he would become the inheritor of the whole Huo Enterprise, making him the person to rule over the whole Huo family.

Huo Jingtang was depressed even when he'd finally become the CEO of Yunhai Entertainment.

Making it worse was the fact that even his grandfather had set him up.

Even though his grandfather did not openly punish him for taking over the company by force, Huo Xun instead handed over everything to Huo Yunshen secretly. Huo Jingtang wasn't even invited to the board meeting.

Every choice Huo Xun had made clearly reflected the fact that he wanted to exclude Huo Jingtang and the people that were siding with his father out of the enterprise.

"It's still not late, you know," Xu Xinrou said sympathetically. "You just have to find a way to take back things that have been robbed from you."

"Take it back? With what? Huo Yunshen has a daughter now," Huo Jingtang said as he smashed a table. "That's the reason why grandpa would suddenly hand everything over to him. It's all because of the child."

One of the requirements of being the heir of the Huo family was having a child.

Huo Jingtang had thought of a way to take care of Huo Yunshen five years ago, but he'd managed to survive the accident. But it was the same accident that took away his ability to walk and mate.

Huo Jingtang had many chances to take care of Huo Yunshen after the accident, but he thought that being crippled would be the best punishment and torture for Huo Yunshen.

Yet he'd never thought that everything would turn out different than what he'd imagined.

“So what if he has a daughter?” Xu Xinrou asked. “You won't lose if you have a child of your own.”

“Child? What good will a child do me now?”

Huo Jingtang had been planning to take over the company for the past few years and rarely had time to mess around with women.

Now that the existence of Huo Yunshen's daughter was known to the whole family, it was too late for Huo Jingtang even if he could produce a child right away.

“Of course it does. I'm already pregnant.”

Huo Jingtang could feel a chill running down his spine as he looked at Xu Xinrou.

“Who's the father?” Huo Jingtang asked as the father could either be him or Chu Yuhe.

Yet the father wasn't even one of them. The child belonged to Mr. Li, who Xu Xinrou slept with for one night. Xu Xinrou had still been pondering how to get rid of the child in her body, but she suddenly found a way to not only give birth to the child but also pave her way into the Huo family.

“Does it matter? The child could be a chance for you,” Xu Xinrou said. “You still have hope to take over the whole family if I can give birth to this child.”

Not only was Xu Xinrou not embarrassed about the bastard in her body, but she'd even treated the child like a wild card.

“Even if you can give birth to the child, it’s already too late. Huo Yunshen’s daughter is already four or five years old.”

Huo Jingtang had sent one of his people to check up on Ying Bao. Even though the information wasn’t complete, he could determine her age by her looks.

“And? As long as I can give birth to this child, and Huo Yunshen loses his, you can still rule the whole family.”

The wickedness that Xu Xinrou was showing might have been on par with Huo Jingtang’s.

Chapter 466 - He'll Be On His Own

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Jingtang instantly understood what Xu Xinrou was implying, he wasn't an idiot.

If what Xu Xinrou had said was true, if she was able to give birth to a child for him, and if Huo Yunshen's daughter were to disappear, then Huo Jingtang would have a very high chance of claiming the spot of the next heir.

It was as if his frustration was suddenly gone.

"You sure are my think tank," Huo Jingtang smiled and hugged Xu Xinrou. "Now that you're going to have our child, we should move forward with our wedding. I'll go back and have a talk with my grandpa."

"You have to remain calm when trouble arises," Xu Xinrou warned. "You should go back and apologize for your mistake as sincerely as you can."

"Of course," Huo Jingtang said as he picked Xu Xinrou up and headed towards the bedroom. "But before that, I think I should reward my adviser first."

...

Early the next morning, at the Huo Mansion, Moxiang Residence, Huo Jingtang sat in front of Huo Xun's bed.

"Grandpa, I'm here. How are you?"

"I won't die yet, thanks to you," Huo Xun said as he sat up.

"Disappointed?"

Huo Jingtang's face turned pale as he helped Huo Xun up and set a pillow down behind him.

"What are you talking about?" Huo Jingtang laughed. "I hope that you can live past a hundred."

"That would be good if what you said was the truth."

Even though Huo Xun was old, his mind was still working fine. He could still understand what was happening inside the family.

He knew perfectly well what kind of people his two grandsons were, and he could still differentiate between the good and the bad.

"I know what I did to Huo Xun was wrong. That's why I'm here today, to apologize." Huo Jingtang knelt down. "I know that people will think that I'm cruel, but everything that I did was all for Yunshen's sake. I didn't want him to be overworked since he's in a wheelchair. He's like my little brother, my only little brother. We grew up together, and I would still give him half of what I have. I always thought that since I'm older than Yunshen, I should take care of him and the whole family. I just want to fulfill my responsibility."

Everything that Huo Jingtang said was a lie. He talked about taking over the throne like it was out of his generosity, as if he was forced to take the role of the next heir.

Huo Xun could hear the lies in his words. As the elder of the Huo family, he thought that he should warn his grandson a little.

"Do you think I've become senile? You should know how many lies you've just told me," Huo Xun scolded. "Don't think that I have no idea of all the decisions you've made behind my back. Let me tell you this: it was me who decided to exclude Yunhai Entertainment out of our family business. It's a warning for you! If I even hear once more word of your evil-doing in the future, you'll be kicked out of this family!"

A warning from the king of the family. If Huo Jingtang remained as the same he was, Huo Xun was ready to kick him out and force him survive on his own.

Chapter 467 - The First Man to Steal Her Heart

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Even though Huo Jingtang had plastered a smile on his face, he was cursing his grandfather in his head.

He remained, as if he was apologizing for his mistake, and said, "I will do my best in the future and make Yunhai better."

"Good, you may leave now," Huo Xun said, waving his hand as he turned his back to Huo Jingtang.

With the attitude that Huo Xun was showing, Huo Jingtang could only keep the marriage to himself. He left the Moxiang Residence unhappily.

As soon as he walked out of the residence, his smile disappeared instantly.

One of his subordinates rushed to his side, handing him a file. "Sir, I've found out who the little girl is. She's an online celebrity that goes by 'Cherry Baby.'"

"You know what to do," Huo Jingtang said after he'd read the file.

"Yes!"

"Don't leave any traces behind."

"Yes, sir!"

A cunning smile appeared on his face.

You cunning old man, trying to chase me out of the family! Then don't blame me for making the first move!

Huo Jingtang was already picturing how devastated Huo Yunshen would be after he'd lost his daughter.

...

Xu Xiyan arrived at a mansion the next day, which was at the address provided to her. She'd already guessed that her employer must be someone loaded with money.

She introduced herself to the guard and was led into the living room, which was decorated with crystals.

"Is she here?" a voice from the second floor asked.

"Yes, she's waiting in the living room."

Xu Xiyan raised her head and saw Xue Yating coming down from the spiral stairs wearing a light purple dress.

Xue Yating? Xu Xiyan thought. Don't tell me this is Xue Yating's house! I thought I was here for a violin job? What does that have to do with her? Wasn't she in an accident not long ago?

"Jing Xi?" Xue Yating blurted out of surprise as she instantly recognized who Xu Xiyan was. What made her puzzled was why Xu Xiyan was at her home when she'd searched for a violinist through the black market.

"Nice to meet you, Miss Xue."

"Are you here for me, or..."

Xue Yating wasn't sure why Xu Xiyan would have come to her house.

"I was sent here by a middleman in the black market. I heard that this place needs a violinist," Xu Xiyan explained.

"Yes, you're right..." Xue Yating replied, as she couldn't believe the coincidence. "Come up here with me, I'll tell you the whole story."

Xu Xiyan went up to Xue Yating's room and heard her whole story.

It was Xue Yating, herself, who needed the violinist double.

After talking for a while, Xu Xiyan told Xue Yating that the “Ye Xun” she’d met at the Huo mansion was herself in disguise. Xue Yating looked at Xu Xiyan with a weird expression, as she couldn’t believe that the first man she’d fallen for was actually a girl.

Chapter 468 - Precious Baby

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

She was envious of Jing Xi: how lucky she was to be loved by not one, but two men!

“Ms. Xue, I don’t understand. You’re an excellent violinist, why do you need a substitute?” Xu Xiyan asked.

Somewhere along the way, Xue Yating had, without realizing it herself, started thinking of Xu Xiyan as a good friend. She waved her right hand as she explained, “I don’t want to do this either, to be honest. But I injured my wrist ligament during the car accident.”

“You injured your hand?”

Xu Xiyan knew very well that a hand injury was no laughing matter: it was enough to destroy the career of a violinist.

“Yeah. According to my doctor, it’ll take a year for me to recover. He says I’m not allowed to touch the violin for the next 12 months.”

“And that’s why you’re looking for someone to stand in for you in the meantime?”

“That’s right. I don’t want to put my career on hold, and I don’t want to let my fans down, either.”

Xue Yating’s career had just reached new heights. She did not want to give up on it while she spent a year recuperating.

Her schedule was packed with concerts. If she hit the Pause button on her career now, she might never get the chance to perform on stage again.

She knew it was a risky gamble, but it was worth it if it meant securing her future.

“But this counts as deceiving the audience. What if they find out what’s going on?” Xu Xiyan could not help feeling that this was a very dangerous move. There was a good chance that Xue Yating’s future would be ruined if the audience discovered her ruse.

“They won’t find out. I was worried about that too, but I know you’ll be able to pull it off. You were able to disguise yourself as Ye Xun, I’m sure it’ll be easy enough for you to pretend to be me. And besides, I heard you play the violin at the Huo mansion, and you were really, really good.”

Xue Yating had heard Xu Xiyan play the violin, and knew that she was an excellent violinist. Aside from that, the two of them were of a similar height and body shape. Xue Yating was confident no one would realize it was actually Xu Xiyan up on the stage once the actress disguised herself with makeup.

“I can disguise myself as you, but...”

Xu Xiyan hesitated. She wasn’t particularly close to Xue Yating, but that didn’t mean she was okay with the thought of accidentally ruining her career.

Xue Yating continued to persuade her. “If you say yes to this, I’ll give you half of my earnings for each show. That’s quite a lot of money, you know. Are you sure you want to give up such a wonderful opportunity to make money?”

Xue Yating wasn’t exaggerating; it was, in fact, a lot of money. Xue Yating took home hundreds of thousands Yuan for every concert. Some concerts netted her over a million yuan. If they split the money 50-50, Xu Xiyan would receive a considerable amount of money for each performance.

Xu Xiyan’s interest was piqued. She wanted to make more money to provide for her daughter and give her a better life. She wasn’t sure she could deal with the risks, however. What if things didn’t go according to plan?

Xue Yating knew what she was worried about. She added helpfully, “If you think 50-50 is too little for you, I don’t mind

giving you more. We'll split it 30-70 instead.”

“No, Ms. Xue, I'm not complaining about the money. I'm more than happy with splitting the pay 50-50.”

After a moment of careful consideration, Xu Xiyan finally made up her mind. “I can help you. I don't really care about how we split the money—50-50, 30-70, it doesn't matter. But I have one condition.”

“What is it? Tell me.”

“Next year, once all the performances are over... I want you to give me Artemis.”

Xue Yating was taken aback by the request. She cocked her head to the side as she considered it. “You want my violin?”

“Yes, that's right.”

Xue Yating got out her precious baby. She opened the case and gently caressed the violin inside. She turned and smiled at Xu Xiyan. “Jing Xi, you have great taste. Did you know that I spent a fortune just to get my hands on this violin?”

It was obvious that the violin was special to Xue Yating from the way she cherished and maintained it. Xu Xiyan's gaze fell upon the glossy, polished surface of the violin as she whispered, “I know. You spent 30 million Yuan on it.”

“That's right, I bought it for 30 million Yuan at an auction. What makes you think I'd be willing to give it to you?”

Chapter 469 - Sentimental Value

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan was silent. She knew it was a ridiculous request. Why would Xue Yating willingly hand her precious baby to someone else?

She would have to be insane to do that!

Xue Yating was most definitely not insane. She knew exactly what she was doing. “Jing Xi, if you want a violin, I can give you a better one. Surely it isn’t necessary for us to squabble over this specific violin?”

“But that violin has sentimental value for me.”

Xu Xiyan watched despairingly as Xue Yating placed the violin back into its case. She knew that it was futile: Xu Xiyan would never agree to her request.

“Oh? What sentimental value? Tell me. Who knows, I might change my mind if I find your explanation to be reasonable,” Xue Yating said jokingly.

“Because... it was left to me by my late mother. I want it back,” said Xu Xiyan softly. There was a faint glimmer of light in her eyes.

Xue Yating froze in the middle of shutting the violin case. She looked at Xu Xiyan incredulously. “Oh my god... Don’t tell me you’re Madam Jing’s daughter?”

Xu Xiyan did not say anything. She remained in her seat, quietly waiting. From certain angles, she looked very much like a younger version of her mother.

Xue Yating rubbed her eyes. She took a closer look at Xu Xiyan's face, and paid extra attention to the way she carried herself. She grabbed Xu Xiyan's hand in amazement. "How did I not see it? You're a wonderful violinist, and your surname is Jing! Are you really Madam Jing's daughter? Am I dreaming?"

She had not expected to meet Jing Ruyue's daughter. Xue Yating's heart swelled with emotion as tears gathered in her eyes.

She held Xu Xiyan's hand, squeezing it tight as she talked of her own connection with Jing Ruyue, and what had led her to study music.

Xue Yating worshipped Jing Ruyue—she had been fanatically obsessed with her idol.

When she was a little child, her father had taken her to one of Jing Ruyue's concerts. Even as a young girl, she had been awestruck by Jing Ruyue's performance.

She had been blown away by the violinist's masterful playing—it was as though she had been transported into a different world.

From that moment on, Xue Yating fell hopelessly in love with the violin. She began her arduous journey towards being a violinist, dreaming that one day, she, too, would be able to play in front of an international audience, just like Jing Ruyue. She would capture the hearts and imaginations of her audience with her music, just like her idol.

Jing Ruyue eventually gave up music to enter show business, and then lost her life in an accident. Xue Yating was saddened by the news and mourned her death for a very long time.

At the end of Xue Yating's little speech, Xu Xiyan was surprised to discover that her own cheeks were wet with tears.

She wiped her tears with the back of her hand. She said, with heartfelt gratitude, "Ms. Xue, thank you, thank you for keeping my mother alive in your memories."

Xue Yating saw her tears. She handed Xu Xiyan a tissue as she said comfortingly, "I'm sorry. That must be a painful memory

for you.”

Xu Xiyan smiled as she shook her head. “It’s fine.”

Xue Yating patted Xu Xiyan on the shoulder. She looked like she had just arrived at a decision. “Okay, Jing Xi, you’ve convinced me. I agree to your request. You’re Madam Jing’s daughter, after all, and it would be cruel of me to say no.”

“Thank you!”

This was an unexpected turn of events. Xue Yating’s willingness to part with her precious violin surprised Xu Xiyan.

“You don’t have to thank me, because I’m asking for something else in return,” Xue Yating said with a smile.

“What’s that?”

Xue Yating suddenly leaned her head upon Xu Xiyan’s shoulder and said playfully, “Let’s be sisters! You’re Madam Jing’s daughter. I would be honored and delighted if we could be good friends!”

Xue Yating was from a distinguished family. Her prestigious background, coupled with her proud, bossy personality, meant that she did not have any friends. To put it another way, no one was bold or presumptuous enough to try to be her friend.

Chapter 470 - A Promising Couple

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

But Xue Yating was just like any other girl her age: she longed for friendship, for soul sisters who truly understood her.

“I... would be honored.”

It was the truth: Xu Xiyan was just as flattered and delighted as Xue Yating. She could not believe her luck: she had not only reclaimed her mother’s violin, but also made a new friend.

In a dreamy, confused manner, Xu Xiyan agreed to stand in for Xue Yating, and quickly became friends with her.

Xu Xiyan spent some time putting on her makeup and disguise.

She put on Xue Yating’s black evening gown. As soon as she emerged from the dressing room, Xue Yating gazed at her in complete amazement.

“Oh my god—Jing Xi, this is so surreal! I thought I was looking at my reflection in the mirror! You look exactly like me, I don’t know how you do it!”

Xu Xiyan looked at herself in the mirror. It was true, she was the spitting image of Xue Yating.

Xue Yating handed Artemis over to Xu Xiyan. Xu Xiyan placed the violin under her chin and began to play.

Once the beautiful, relaxing piece was over, Xue Yating applauded her vigorously. She enthused, with complete

sincerity, “Jing Xi, that was amazing. You’re a much better violinist than I am, I feel so inferior.”

“Don’t say that, you’re a wonderful violinist.” Xu Xiyan laughed. “You should fall in love, get a boyfriend. I think that will help add a little more feeling to your music.”

Xu Xiyan had always felt that Xue Yating’s playing, although skillful, was a little lacking in emotion.

“Fall in love? I want to, but Mr. Ye doesn’t even know I exist. I don’t stand a chance.”

Xue Yating was not the type to delude herself with fantasies.

“But why does it have to be Mr. Ye? You’re a great catch, you can aim a lot higher.”

Xu Xiyan had seen Huo Sanyan and Ye Xun’s explosive interactions, and thought they made a promising couple.

If Xue Yating decided to turn it into a love triangle, all three of them would inevitably suffer. It was, in Xu Xiyan’s opinion, better to persuade Xue Yating to choose someone else before anyone got hurt.

“You want me to aim higher? Well, there’s only person better than Mr. Ye, and that’s Huo Yunshen! Mr. Huo may be in a wheelchair, but there’s something really attractive about him. He’s handsome and super talented, I’m sure he’ll make a great husband. What do you think?” said Xue Yating dreamily. She looked like a schoolgirl fantasizing about her crush.

“...” Xu Xiyan’s heart constricted. She felt as though someone was about to snatch her baby away.

Was Xue Yating in love with Huo Yunshen?

“You... you like Mr. Huo?” There was a tinge of resentment in Xu Xiyan’s voice.

Xue Yating had only been testing Xu Xiyan. As soon as she saw that Xu Xiyan was upset and close to tears, she immediately burst into laughter. “Hahaha, I was just teasing you! Oh dear, you should have seen that panicked look on your face! Don’t worry, Mr. Huo is yours, I have no intention of taking him from you.”

Xu Xiyan: "...”

That wasn't funny! She had almost died of a heart attack, dammit!

She knew that as long as Xue Yating was willing, the Xue family and the Huo family would be more than happy to have Huo Yunshen and Xue Yating tie the knot.

Luckily, Xue Yating wasn't interested in Huo Yunshen. On top of that, she was now good friends with Xu Xiyan, which meant there was very little chance of her being a rival in love. Xu Xiyan was glad of that; she did not think she would be able to win against someone like her.

Xu Xiyan spent some time in the Xue residence, where, like a true soul sister, Xue Yating talked to Xu Xiyan about anything and everything: tales from elementary school, high school, college, and her experience studying abroad.

They eventually got to talking about show business. Xue Yating said, "Jing Xi, you remember that poll for 'Root of Evil?' I voted for you to be the leading lady! Your performance was incredible, I don't know why they didn't pick you. Oh well, it's their loss."

Xue Yating was trying to comfort Xu Xiyan. She assumed that the actress already knew that she had lost the role.

But in actuality, Xu Xiyan did not know that the poll had ended...

Chapter 471 - You Already Have One

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan had not been aware that the poll was already over, and was surprised to hear from Xue Yating that the results were out.

“I don’t really care. Like they say, if you don’t get what you want, that means you’ll be getting something even better.”

She had known she would lose. She wasn’t exactly famous—how was she supposed to compete with the A-list superstars?

Xu Xiyan was entirely nonchalant about the matter: the role was either hers, or it wasn’t. The results did not affect her in the slightest because she had not expected to get the part.

“Wow, I love your positivity. I’m liking you more and more with every passing minute. Oh, how I wish I had a sister like you!”

After spending time together, Xue Yating found that she really enjoyed being with Xu Xiyan. Xu Xiyan was like a wise, caring older sister, despite being only a little older than Xue Yating.

“Oh, you already have one.”

Xu Xiyan smiled shyly. It wasn’t a one-sided friendship; Xu Xiyan, too, had accepted Xue Yating as a friend.

“I’m so glad to hear that.”

Xue Yating happily slid a hand around Xu Xiyan’s arm. “Jing Xi, do you have time? Why don’t we go shopping together?”

Xue Yating was envious of the girls who went shopping together, hand-in-hand. She was always alone when she went shopping—the assistant and the bodyguard trailing behind her didn't count—and she found it dreadfully boring.

“I'll have to take a rain check on that. I have to report to the set later today to wrap up my scenes,” said Xu Xiyan apologetically.

Xue Yating was both sympathetic and understanding. She said, “Okay, we'll go shopping when you have the time. I really, really want to go shopping with you.”

Xu Xiyan hurried towards the movie set as soon as she stepped out of the Xue residence.

They would be shooting Xu Xiyan's final scene for “Red Sleeved Beauty.” It was also the last scene of the day.

Meng Jinxin's maid, Yao Yue, had been secretly helping Wei Yuting regain the Emperor's affections. Thanks to Yao Yue's help, Wei Yuting reclaimed her status as the Emperor's concubine, and was now Meng Jinxin's equal.

Meng Jinxin was furious. In her anger, she ordered for Yao Yue to be beaten with a cane 100 times as punishment.

Yao Yue was beaten to death. In her final moments, she coughed out a mouthful of blood before finally closing her eyes.

“Cut!”

After Huang Guoqiang, the director, shouted “cut,” he signaled to everyone on the set. “Very good! That's a wrap for Yao Yue!”

As soon as she heard the words “that's a wrap,” Xu Xiyan got up and wiped the fake blood from her mouth.

“Jing Xi, congratulations! That's a wrap, all your scenes are done.”

The production crew swarmed around her to congratulate her.

After removing her makeup, Qi Liya stepped forward and gave her a gentle, encouraging hug. “Jing Xi, your acting was

wonderful.”

“Thank you, Ms. Qi.”

That had been the last scene for the day. The production crew began to pack up; just then, someone cheekily called for the director to hold a wrap party.

Huang Guoqiang saw that Qi Liya hadn't left just yet. He seized the opportunity and said, “Jing Xi finished all her scenes today. Good work, everyone. I'll be treating everyone to dinner tonight, and I want to see all of you there. We'll have dinner together.”

“Awesome! All hail the director!” someone shouted joyfully.

“We'll suck him dry and make him regret it,” another joked.

Everyone was excited. Qi Liya had been about to leave, but Xu Xiyan grabbed hold of her hand. “Ms. Qi, this is a rare opportunity for us to eat out together. In fact, this may be the last time I'll be able to have dinner with everyone here. Won't you please join us?”

Qi Liya could not bring herself to turn down Xu Xiyan's passionate request. “Well, okay. But just so you know, I'm only going because you asked me to.”

“Thank you so much, thank you. This humble servant is deeply honored to know that the Emperor's concubine finds her to be worthy of her time.”

Xu Xiyan gave a dramatic curtsy, sending Qi Liya into loud peals of laughter.

Not everyone was happy with Director Huang's offer to buy dinner. Zhao Ruiqi, walking behind Xu Xinrou, said enviously, “Who does that Jing Xi think she is? Why is the director buying everyone dinner just because her scenes are done? She's only playing the part of a lowly palace maiden.”

Chapter 472 - Ulterior Motive

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Wen Li snorted disdainfully. “It’s so obvious what’s really going on between her and the director. She says she’s innocent and all, but if this isn’t proof of a scandal I don’t know what is!”

“Exactly! Guan Xiaoling wrapped up her scenes the day before yesterday, but the director didn’t throw a party for her,” said Zhao Ruiqi, seething with envy and resentment.

Xu Xinrou was just as upset, but she kept her feelings from showing on her face. “You should study your script instead of spending your time and energy on idle gossip. Put in a good performance, and the director will give you a leg up in the industry.”

Zhao Ruiqi did not think that was fair. “Ms. Xinrou, I know my acting needs work, but what about Jing Xi? She’s a terrible actress, her acting doesn’t hold a candle to yours! She’s just playing the part of a palace maiden. Why is Director Huang giving her special treatment?”

Previously, when Jing Xi had been suspected of murder, most directors would have offered her part to someone else at the first opportunity.

But Huang Guoqiang had merely given Jing Xi time off. When the dust had settled, he immediately asked her to return to the set to continue shooting her scenes.

“Okay, that’s enough,” warned Xu Xinrou.

Zhao Ruiqi was now part of her clique, which meant Xu Xinrou had to be extra careful about what Zhao Ruiqi said in public. She did not want Zhao Ruiqi to get her into trouble.

Deep down, however, she had been keeping tabs on Xu Xiyan. She knew very well that Director Huang had been giving Xu Xiyan preferential treatment—it was clear as day to anyone who wasn't blind.

She did not believe for a second that Xu Xiyan and Director Huang's relationship was strictly professional.

The actresses were in the middle of removing their makeup when Xiao Ge, the set PA, ran over to inform them of the dinner venue.

Zhao Ruiqi pouted. “Ms. Xinrou, are we going to the wrap party for Jing Xi?”

“Of course we're going! Who knows, we may be able to get something out of it!”

Xu Xinrou gave Wen Li, her assistant, a significant look. Wen Li immediately took the hint.

Everyone was now gathered at the Celebrity Hotel, the venue for the party. Huang Guoqiang had reserved two luxury private rooms.

The main creatives and the principal actors took one of the rooms. The regular staff and the less important actors took the other.

Xu Xiyan ended up sitting next to Zhao Ruiqi, unaware that Xu Xinrou had arranged for them to sit together.

As the director and the investors—the important people—were all in the other room, everyone in Xu Xiyan's room quickly relaxed and enjoyed themselves.

Zhao Ruiqi took it upon herself to make sure everyone's cups were always full. She eagerly poured out drinks and wine for everyone.

Her usual disdainful attitude towards Xu Xiyan had done a 180; she was suddenly overly friendly, and kept urging everyone in the room to toast Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan politely declined everyone who tried to toast her.
“Sorry, I don’t drink.”

Xu Xinrou and Chu Yuhe had sabotaged her once, five years ago, and they had done it by plying her with alcohol. She had since learned her lesson, and was wary about drinking around people she didn’t entirely trust.

“How about a soft drink, then? You’re the guest of honor at this party, we’re celebrating the successful completion of your scenes. You have to drink up, or the rest of us will feel guilty about drinking.”

Zhao Ruiqi knew how to get other people to drink. She was being especially pushy now because Wen Li had tasked her with a special mission.

Everyone in the room was now waiting to toast Xu Xiyan, and she could not refuse them all. She was left with no choice but to raise her soft drink in a toast and drink it.

Halfway through the dinner, Xu Xiyan got up to go to the bathroom. She’d had a little too much to drink.

After relieving herself, she was about to exit the stall when she suddenly heard Xu Xinrou’s voice from just outside the door.

“Is everything ready?”

The voice that spoke up next was Wen Li’s. “Don’t worry, everything’s set. Little Zhao will take her upstairs, and the rest will be history.”

“She lucked out and escaped five years ago, but this time, we’ll teach her a lesson she won’t forget.”

Xu Xiyan waited for the click-clack of high heels to fade into the distance before coming out of the stall.

She gave a wry laugh.

Xu Xinrou and Wen Li had been talking about her, she was sure of it.

Was Xu Xinrou trying to sabotage her again?

With that same ol’ trick?

That would explain Zhao Ruiqi's strange behavior: she had been trying her best to ply Xu Xiyan with drinks because she had an ulterior motive.

So their plan was to drug her, take her to a hotel room, and get a man to take advantage of her?

Why was it always the same clichéd trick? Would it kill them to be a little more creative, for once?

...

Chapter 473 - A Taste Of Your Own Medicine

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan checked her reflection in the mirror. Her cheeks were still a normal, healthy pink, and she felt perfectly fine. She counted her lucky stars: she hadn't been drugged yet.

She calmly returned to the private room, and found that Zhao Ruiqi had already refilled her empty cup.

Xu Xiyan guessed that her drink had been spiked.

Once she sat down, Zhao Ruiqi lifted her own cup for a toast. "Jing Xi, you finally finished all your scenes. We'll miss seeing you on the set. Here's another toast—I hope we'll be able to get together again in the future."

What a load of bull!

Xu Xiyan snorted inwardly as she raised her cup with a beatific smile on her face.

Zhao Ruiqi stared at Xu Xiyan's cup. She was shouting like a maniac inside: Come on, drink it! It's going to be such a "fun" and "exciting" night for you!

The cup was almost at Xu Xiyan's lips when there was a sudden ke-rack!—it was the sound of a phone hitting the floor.

Zhao Ruiqi watched the new phone she had bought for 10,000 yuan hit the floor. Sh*t! She felt as though she had been punched in the gut.

She set her cup down and hastily bent to retrieve her phone. Xu Xiyan seized the opportunity to switch their drinks.

“The phone’s okay, right? I hope I didn’t break it,” Xu Xiyan asked worriedly as Zhao Ruiqi picked up her phone. In actual fact, she had deliberately dropped it, but she wasn’t about to admit it.

“Oh my god, look at this crack on the screen! It’s a new phone! Why am I so unlucky?! Ugh...” It pained Zhao Ruiqi to see what had become of her new phone. She could not stop sighing.

“Oh, that’s probably just a sign of good luck coming your way. Out with the old, in with the new! Come on, let’s have a toast—to a change of luck for you!”

All of Zhao Ruiqi’s attention was now on her phone. She downed her drink without a second thought—all she wanted now was for her bad luck to go away.

The dinner was now coming to an end. Many of the male production staff were already drunk. Xu Xiyan put a hand to her forehead. “Qiqi, I feel so dizzy!”

She got up unsteadily. She looked like she would fall over any minute, if it wasn’t for Zhao Ruiqi supporting her.

Zhao Ruiqi was also feeling light-headed from the spiked drink. She brushed it off, thinking it was just the white wine she had been drinking.

“Jing Xi, if you’re feeling dizzy, I can take you upstairs to rest. Director Huang booked a room, in case any of us wanted to refresh ourselves.”

“Okay, sorry for the trouble.”

Xu Xiyan leaned against Zhao Ruiqi, and let her steer her out of the private room.

Zhao Ruiqi led Xu Xiyan to the elevator and pressed the button for the 11th floor. It took her some time to figure out the floor plan and find the room Wen Li had booked: Room 1128.

Once they were inside the room, Zhao Ruiqi tried to get Xu Xiyan onto the bed. Suddenly, her own legs buckled under her and she fell onto the bed, together with Xu Xiyan.

“It’s so hot in here! I’m burning up!” Zhao Ruiqi mumbled.

Xu Xiyan sat up from the bed and turned to look at Zhao Ruiqi, whose face was now flushed. Zhao Ruiqi was no longer thinking clearly; she began to tug at her own clothes.

The drug was working!

Hmph, you wanted to sabotage me? Well, here’s a taste of your own medicine!

Xu Xiyan decided it would be unprofessional to leave without making sure everything was in place. She removed all of Zhao Ruiqi’s clothes—stripping her naked—and pulled the blanket over her.

She dimmed the lights, leaving just enough light for it to be “romantic,” and then quietly left the room.

Xu Xiyan did not immediately leave the hotel. She hid in a dark corner; she wanted to see what kind of man Xu Xinrou had arranged for her.

After waiting for about 15 minutes, a man appeared in the corridor.

It was a fat man, to be precise, and one who looked very familiar. It was Mr. Li, the fat, piggish investor from five years ago.

Xu Xiyan had to admit she was impressed—in all the wrong ways. This disgusting man had apparently continued to lust after her since his failed attempt to bed her five years ago.

Five years ago, Mr. Li had missed out on his “night of fun” because something had come up at the 11th hour. He had never stopped regretting it.

This time, Mr. Li had made for the hotel at full speed after receiving the call. He had learned his lesson and did not dare waste a single minute.

Chapter 474 - Like a Ravenous Wolf

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Mr. Li used a spare keycard to unlock the door to Room 1128. He opened the door and entered the room, hardly able to contain his excitement.

The room lights, dim and hazy, made the place seem especially sexy and romantic.

He immediately began looking for his prey as soon as he was inside.

He spotted someone under the blanket on the large bed: it was a girl, her long black hair spread over the pillow.

Mr. Li sprang into action. He immediately removed his clothes, brimming with excitement. In a flash, he had shrugged out of his clothes and was now naked as the day he was born.

He had mastered the art of shedding his clothes because he had done this many, many times.

“Heh heh, I’m here, my little beauty! You naughty girl, you left me hanging for five years!”

Mr. Li pounced upon the girl on the bed like a ravenous wolf.

Back downstairs, the party in the private room with the production bigwigs had ended. Xu Xinrou said goodbye to Huang Guoqiang, and left the room with Wen Li in tow.

Qi Liya and her assistant, Xiao Ke, were the only ones left at the dinner table. The main creatives of the production had taken turns toasting Qi Liya, and she was now terribly drunk.

Xiao Ke helped Qi Liya get to her feet. She was about to take her away when Huang Guoqiang, looking anxious, stopped her. “You shouldn’t drive, you’ve been drinking too. How about this—I booked a room upstairs. Why don’t you take her there and rest up? At least wait till she’s awake and fully alert before you go.”

“I’ll do that. Thank you, Director Huang.”

Xiao Ke was short, and not particularly strong. She was having a lot of trouble trying to keep Qi Liya, who was completely drunk, steady on her feet.

Huang Guoqiang decided he had to step in. He handed Xiao Ke a credit card. “I’ll help her. Why don’t you help me settle the bill instead? My PIN number is 851010. When you’re done, come look for us in Room 1106.”

Xiao Ke was dumbfounded. She gaped at the credit card for about two seconds: Why was Director Huang’s PIN number the same as Qi Liya’s birth date?

But she did not ask any questions. She obediently handed Qi Liya over to Huang Guoqiang, took the credit card, grabbed her coat, and made a beeline for the cashier.

Huang Guoqiang took hold of Qi Liya and helped her out of the private room. He did not notice the figure crouched in a dark corner—it was Wen Li, who had stumbled upon this scene quite by accident.

Wen Li stealthily followed after them. She saw Huang Guoqiang and Qi Liya enter the hotel room together.

She inwardly cackled with glee as she snapped photo after photo. She had assumed that Qi Liya was some kind of pure, innocent fairy, but now she knew she had been far off the mark—the actress was sleeping with the director!

All she had to do was release the photos, and Qi Liya’s reputation would go into the gutter. No one would dare go up against her dear Xinrou after that.

Wen Li was careful not to alert them. She left quietly; she would contact the media and the paparazzi in the safety of her home.

She would tip off the paparazzi and have them catch Mr. Li and Xu Xiyan in bed the next morning—the news would blow up and send the entertainment industry into a gossiping frenzy.

[Jing Xi caught sleeping with investor!]

[Qi Liya and Huang Guoqiang are having an affair!]

The headlines in the entertainment news section were going to be absolutely scandalous!

But Wen Li had not realized that she was a spider in someone else's web: Xu Xiyan's.

Xu Xiyan had turned to leave after Mr. Li entered Room 1128. That was when she saw, quite by accident, Huang Guoqiang helping Qi Liya into Room 1106, which was in the opposite direction.

She had wanted to go up to them to ask if Qi Liya was feeling all right, but had been distracted by the sight of Wen Li tailing them and surreptitiously taking photos.

Xu Xiyan immediately understood what was going on: if Wen Li released her photos, the entertainment industry would explode with juicy gossip.

Wen Li left as soon as she was done taking photos. Xu Xiyan, on the other hand, made her way towards Room 1106. She pressed the doorbell.

Huang Guoqiang assumed it was Xiao Ke. He opened the door and was surprised to see Xu Xiyan. "Huh? Jing Xi, you're still here?"

"Course I'm still here. I couldn't leave without checking on Ms. Qi."

Xu Xiyan entered the room without waiting for a reply—just in time to see Qi Liya puking her guts out as she clung to the side of the bed.

Chapter 475 - Surprise Bedside Visit

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan quickly grabbed a trash can and placed it before Qi Liya for her to throw up in. She rubbed Qi Liya's back as she turned to look at Huang Guoqiang. "Director Huang, please get me a bottle of mineral water."

"Oh, sure." Huang Guoqiang finally recovered from his surprise. He quickly found the bottle of mineral water that the hotel provided free of charge, unscrewed the cap, and handed it to Xu Xiyan.

After Qi Liya was done puking, Xu Xiyan gave her the bottle of mineral water. Once Qi Liya had gargled and rinsed out her mouth, Xu Xiyan helped her onto the bed to rest.

Xu Xiyan took the trash can to the bathroom to clean it. When she returned, she said to Huang Guoqiang with a serious, no-nonsense expression: "Director Huang, it isn't safe to stay here. You have to get another room for Ms. Qi."

"What's wrong?" Huang Guoqiang asked, surprised.

"I was in the corridor just now, and I saw paparazzi tailing you. They've already taken pictures of the two of you entering this room. My guess is, the two of you will be in the headlines tomorrow. I think you may even receive a surprise bedside visit from them tomorrow morning. You know how they do things: 'hi there, surprise, we caught the two of you in bed, now smile for the camera!'"

Xu Xiyan was the only person bold enough to explain a serious problem to Director Huang in such an off-beat,

lighthearted manner. He could barely keep himself from bursting into laughter, despite the severity of the situation.

Huang Guoqiang smiled at her as he poked her forehead. “Well, I’ll be damned! You saved my ass, you little devil! Okay, I’ll go book another room, right this minute.”

“I’ll go. You’re too famous, you’ll attract too much attention!” said Xu Xiyan, laughing. She hurried out of the room.

After Xu Xiyan had left, Huang Guoqiang walked over to the bed to see how Qi Liya was doing.

This was a rare opportunity for him to be alone with Qi Liya, and Huang Guoqiang was reluctant to waste a single second of it. He watched the face of the sleeping woman, his eyes full of tenderness.

He could not resist reaching out and lightly caressing her rosy cheeks with his fingers. He touched her reverently, as though she were a rare, priceless treasure.

Qi Liya found his touch ticklish. She suddenly opened her bleary eyes, catching Huang Guoqiang by surprise. He immediately withdrew his hand, quick as lightning.

She closed her eyes again, rolled over, and went back to sleep.

Huang Guoqiang put a hand to his chest as he let out a low sigh of relief. That had been a close call!

It wasn’t long before Xu Xiyan returned with Xiao Ke. With the help of Huang Guoqiang, they moved Qi Liya to the room next door.

It was a twin room that Xu Xiyan had booked under her name. She and Xiao Ke stayed with Qi Liya the entire night.

Early the next morning—just as Xu Xiyan had predicted—Celebrity Hotel was swamped with reporters, all of them competing to be the first to break the news.

The reporters who had come after hearing about the potentially juicy gossip were divided into two camps: one group made for Room 1128, while the other surged towards Room 1106.

The reporters opened the door to Room 1128 and swarmed inside, their cameras flashing away as they snapped photos of the man and woman occupying the large bed.

Mr. Li was awakened by the sound of the camera flashes. He sat up on the bed, naked, and finally noticed the reporters standing before him.

He reflexively covered his face with a hand. “Stop that! You can’t take photos! Get out! Who let you in?!”

Zhao Ruiqi woke up at that. She sat up; the blanket slipped away from her, exposing her naked upper body to the reporters, who continued snapping away.

Zhao Ruiqi realized she was completely nude; on top of that, she was being photographed by reporters. She covered her chest in alarm and let out a long series of shrieks.

Mr. Li turned his head, saw the unfamiliar face beside him, and gave a loud shout of surprise. Where was Jing Xi?

He had slept with Jing Xi last night, hadn’t he?

Who was this?

The reporters who participated in the raid for Room 1128 were extremely pushy and ruthless. The reporters outside Room 1106, on the other hand, were a lot more well-mannered—they were trying to get the scoop on two very important people in the industry, after all. They did not mind waiting.

After what seemed like an eternity, the door to Room 1106 finally opened. The reporters could hardly contain their excitement; they raised their cameras, ready to capture proof of the affair.

The first person to come out of the room was the renowned director Huang Guoqiang. The reporters surged forward to interview him: “Director Huang, what is your relationship with Ms. Qi Liya? Did the two of you spend the night in this hotel room together?”

Chapter 476 - Sleeping Together?

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huang Guoqiang frowned. He adjusted his suit and said nonchalantly, “What are you talking about? I don’t understand.”

The reporters were all trying to look over his shoulder to see if Qi Liya was in the room. To their surprise, right after Huang Guoqiang walked out of the room, he was followed by the main creatives of his production crew: the scriptwriter, the cinematographer, the production sound mixer, and the editor.

This was evidently the morning after an all-night script study session with the main production staff. Where had the tip-off about Huang Guoqiang and Qi Liya sleeping together come from?

As the group of reporters stared in confusion, Huang Guoqiang began walking away, his head bowed in serious discussion with the scriptwriter regarding future plot changes. He looked so earnest and professional the reporters could not help feeling guilty about taking up his valuable time.

The reporters remained frozen in place even after Huang Guoqiang had disappeared down the corridor with his production crew in tow.

A few moments later, the door to Room 1107 opened. To everyone’s surprise, Qi Liya emerged from the room, followed by Jing Xi and Xiao Ke.

The reporters stood with their mouths open. If nothing had happened last night, what was up with that photo that had been

leaked on the internet? The photo of Huang Guoqiang entering a hotel room with his arm around Qi Liya?

Although the photo did not actually prove anything, the reporters had a natural talent for jumping to conclusions with their overactive imaginations.

One of the reporters wormed his way through the crowd to interview Qi Liya. “Qi Liya, it looks like you didn’t spend the night with Director Huang Guoqiang. How do you explain this intimate shot of the two of you?”

Qi Liya stopped walking. She looked at the photo the reporter was showing her on his phone: it was a photo of Huang Guoqiang and her entering a hotel room. She laughed in an open, easy manner as she explained: “Last night was Jing Xi’s wrap party. I accidentally had too much to drink, and Director Huang helped me to my room. I don’t know who took this particular photo, but I don’t think it really matters. I have plenty of similar photos on my phone, taken during my spare time. What, are you interested in other such photos?”

The answer was watertight, but the reporter was not one to give up easily. “But there’s a rumor going around the internet that Director Huang is trying to woo you. Is it true?”

Qi Liya’s smile grew even more radiant. “Are you serious? Director Huang would never choose someone like me. If he tries to court me, I’ll marry him, right away. He’s a mature, reliable man and an accomplished director—anyone would jump at the opportunity to mooch off his fame and reputation!”

The reporters knew she was right: who wouldn’t want to mooch off someone like that?

If the rumors were true, Qi Liya and Huang Guoqiang would be married by now.

By this point, the reporters had all arrived at the same conclusion: the photo was not proof of a one-night stand, as they had initially assumed. Nothing had happened last night; they had come all this way for nothing.

The three women began to walk away. The reporters immediately ran after them, shouting questions along the way. Since they were already here, it would be a waste not to seize the opportunity to interview Qi Liya, the famous A-list actress, and Jing Xi, the popular newcomer.

“Qi Liya, why are you still single?”

“Qi Liya, is it true that you had your heart broken a few years ago?”

“Jing Xi, are you good friends with Qi Liya?”

“Jing Xi, now that you’ve finished shooting all your scenes in ‘Red Sleeved Beauty,’ will you be joining the production of ‘Root of Evil’ next?”

...

Outside the hotel, the production crew was waiting for them in the minivan. The women got into the vehicle and drove off, leaving the pesky paparazzi and reporters behind.

On the way to the production set, Xu Xiyan received a call from Ma Haodong, who said to her cheerfully over the phone, “Jing Xi, congratulations on getting the part! Don’t forget to buy me dinner!”

“What are you talking about?” Xu Xiyan was puzzled by the sudden congratulatory phone call.

“You’ve been chosen for the part of the female lead in ‘Root of Evil,’ didn’t you know?” Ma Haodong continued, without bothering to wait for her reply, “We’ll be able to act opposite each other again. I can’t wait!”

Xu Xiyan was even more confused now. “Brother Dong, you must have gotten mixed up. They chose Yang Qiong for the role, didn’t they?”

Chapter 477 - All Over

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan knew that Yang Qiong, the famous martial arts actress, had won the poll. The votes for Yang Qiong were double the votes for Xu Xiyan; it wasn't even a close contest.

The lead female role had definitely gone to Yang Qiong, so why was Ma Haodong congratulating her now?

“Nope! That Yang woman cheated, they caught her vote spamming and disqualified her. You were second in the poll, which means you're the real winner!”

“What? Are you sure?”

Xu Xiyan felt sorry for Yang Qiong: the actress was popular enough to win the poll, fair and square. Why did she have to cheat and risk it all?

News of Xu Xiyan winning the lead female role for “Root of Evil” quickly spread throughout the entertainment industry—along with the less-than-savory news about Yang Qiong cheating on the poll.

Many in the industry were envious of Xu Xiyan. They were quick to point out that she did not deserve the starring role, that she had only gotten lucky because her competition had messed up.

One man's luck was another man's misfortune...

Zhao Ruiqi was inside an apartment, kneeling beside Xu Xinrou's feet and sobbing her eyes out. “Ms. Xinrou, I know I messed up. Help me, please! Save me!”

Xu Xinrou was furious. She smashed her tablet and gave Zhao Ruiqi a vicious kick. “You useless piece of trash! I told you to

drug Jing Xi, but what did you do? You slept with Mr. Li instead because you thought it would be a shortcut to fame and success!”

She had carefully planned for Xu Xiyan to be defiled by Mr. Li. The reporters would catch them in bed, and Xu Xiyan’s reputation would be ruined forever. But that wasn’t what had happened.

Xu Xiyan had not only escaped unscathed, she had gotten lucky and landed a starring role!

The reporters had caught Zhao Ruiqi sleeping with Mr. Li instead, and everyone was now talking about the scandal. Huang Guoqiang had booted her from his show as soon as he heard about it.

“That wasn’t my intention! I spiked her drink, I swear, I don’t know why we swapped places. When I woke up, the room was full of reporters, and I had no idea what was going on. It was an accident! Ms. Xinrou, please, you have to believe me! If you don’t help me, it’ll be all over for me.”

Zhao Ruiqi did not have anyone backing her; she had relied solely on sucking up to Xu Xinrou, who had kept her baited with small favors and rewards. Xu Xinrou had been keeping Zhao Ruiqi around to use as a scapegoat at the crucial moment.

But before that could happen, Zhao Ruiqi had destroyed her own reputation and future. Not even Xu Xinrou could help her now.

Xu Xinrou had ordered Wen Li to spread the rumor that Jing Xi was sleeping with Mr. Li, but the reporters had caught Zhao Ruiqi and Mr. Li in bed and the rumor had died a quick death.

Jing Xi’s reputation had not suffered in the slightest. On the contrary, the fake rumor had actually helped boost her popularity: everyone was now looking up her name on internet search engines.

The internet was full of comments condemning Zhao Ruiqi for her shameless act. Everyone wanted her to drop out of show business.

A large number of netizens rallied behind Xu Xiyan, who appeared to be a victim of Zhao Ruiqi's mess. Others did not particularly care one way or another; they were only joining the discussion for the juicy drama.

[Zhao Ruiqi? Who? Ew, what a shameless woman!]

[She's ugly and flat as a runway. She's a total nobody. She must be desperate, she sold her body and dignity just to get ahead!]

[Disgusting! She tried to smear the reputation of my darling Xixi, and it backfired on her. Serves her right!]

[Yang Qiong's even worse, she tried to cheat on the poll. Ugh! Jing Xi totally deserves to be the leading lady for "Root of Evil." Can't wait to see her performance!]

[If Jing Xi doesn't become famous after this, then there is truly no justice in this world [Like] [Like] [Like]]

[Eh, I think this is just a PR stunt for "Root of Evil" and "Red Sleeved Beauty." The directors probably planned the whole thing!]

[I heard that Ni Yun will be composing and performing the theme song for "Red Sleeved Beauty." It'll be Ni Yun's first classical-style song, I can't wait to hear it!]

[Hey guys, did you hear? Ni Yun just released a new single!]

Chapter 478 - Secret Romance

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

[I downloaded it as soon as it was out! It's amazing! I'm going to the record store later to buy a physical copy for my collection.]

[I'm so in LOVE with Ni Yun's songs! You HAVE to watch the music video, it's sooo romantic!]

Xu Xiyan scrolled through the comments: the gossip surrounding the two TV shows had turned into a discussion about Ni Yun's new song.

According to the statistics on music streaming sites, 1.28 million users had listened to Ni Yun's new song "Maybe" within 12 hours of its release. The number of downloads hit a record high, and the song immediately rose to the top of the New Release chart.

The song also generated a record number of comments and reviews on the internet.

[It's soooooooo good!]

[I love Ni Yun's songs, gotta collect them all...]

[Hey, did any of you notice there's actually a female lead in Ni Yun's MV this time around? This is new, none of his other MVs have a female lead!]

[Who's the leading lady in the MV? She's so pretty!]

[Is that Jing Xi and my prince Mu Chenguang in the MV?]

[I watched the MV, and now I really want to be part of a super dreamy romance!]

[Ni Yun actually chose Jing Xi to be the leading lady in his MV? Wow, she must have earned a ton of brownie points in her previous life to be so lucky. What did she do, save the world or something?]

...

The popularity of the “Maybe” MV shifted all interest in Jing Xi and Ma Haodong to Jing Xi and Ni Yun instead.

One reporter tried every trick he could think of to get her to spill the beans on Ni Yun, but Xu Xiyan deftly side-stepped all of his question. The enigmatic Ni Yun was now even more elusive and mysterious.

Xu Xiyan privately wondered whether she had, as the netizens had suggested, saved the world in her previous life. That was the only explanation for her miraculous luck in this life: what had she done to deserve her chance to meet Huo Yunshen?

She had been the first person to listen to the song “Maybe.” As soon as the song was released to the public, Xu Xiyan immediately shared the song on her Weibo.

She listened to the beautiful melody and the irresistibly magnetic voice, and saw, with her mind’s eye, Huo Yunshen’s stoic face and charming eyes.

Oh, he was truly a real-life Prince Charming, and it felt wonderful to be in a secret romance with him!

Xu Xiyan was in such a good mood she immediately agreed when Fang Xiaocheng asked if she wanted to meet up.

The two of them met up in the private room of a BBQ restaurant. Fang Xiaocheng gaped at the food Xu Xiyan had ordered: there was enough to feed a party of seven or eight. She asked, “Is it payday for you? What’s with all the food?”

Xu Xiyan had ordered enough food to cover the entire table, and had even asked the waiter to uncork a bottle of red wine. She was determined to get happily drunk with her friend. “I

don't have to wait until payday to treat a good friend to a meal, do I?"

She laughed and added, "I can't help it. I'm in a good mood today."

"Yes, I can tell. A woman nourished by love is like a flower in full bloom," said Fang Xiaocheng with a teasing smile.

She deliberately put on an exaggerated thinking face as she asked, "Oh wait, I seem to recall someone sobbing their eyes out not so long ago, wailing about her broken heart and swearing to never fall in love again for the rest of her life. Gee, who was that, I wonder?"

Xu Xiyan blushed. She covered her warm, tomato-red cheeks with her hands as she shot Fang Xiaocheng a Look. "Okay, that's enough. Don't ever bring that up again, I'm warning you."

The pork belly sizzling on the BBQ grill was now fully cooked, and the two women dug in. Xu Xiyan chewed on the grilled meat as she said, "Orange, do you remember the first time we ate barbecue? I still remember the taste. I told myself then, I need to work hard and make a ton of money, enough money to afford to eat barbecue every day."

"I remember. Back then, I had no idea your life had been so difficult that you'd never tried barbecue before. I mean, you were from the wealthy Xu family, for goodness sake."

Fang Xiaocheng picked up a piece of grilled meat with her chopsticks and placed it in Xu Xiyan's bowl.

Xu Xiyan lifted her wine glass and clinked glasses with Fang Xiaocheng. She threw back her head and downed her wine.

The red wine had a bitter aftertaste, and it burned her throat a little, but Xu Xiyan was filled only with sweet, treacly happiness. "Well, all my dreams and wishes have come true. This is the life I've always wanted. From now on, I won't have to be jealous of you and Dazhi, ever again."

Chapter 479 - A Terrible Thought

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Yup, I’ll be the one doing all the envying in the future. I’ll be jealous of your super handsome husband and your adorable daughter. Yanyan, you’re living proof that God always leaves the best for last. You’ve waited so long for your happiness. You have my blessings.”

They toasted each other, and happily dug into the grilled meat.

They had not gotten very far into their meal when a group of unfamiliar men barged into the private room. The men made a grab for Xu Xiyan, moving quickly and without hesitation.

Xu Xiyan had been caught off-guard. By the time she realized what was happening, the men had wrapped their hands around her arms.

“Let go of me! Who are you?”

Xu Xiyan struggled, knocking over the wine bottle and BBQ grill with her feet. The wine bottle and grilled meat rolled onto the floor.

Fang Xiaocheng saw the men drag Xu Xiyan out of the private room. She quickly ran after them and tried to grab hold of Xu Xiyan. “Hey! What are you doing?! Let go of her!”

The men were violent and ruthless. One of them kicked Fang Xiaocheng, sending her toppling to the floor. They whisked Xu Xiyan away.

“Yanyan...”

Fang Xiaocheng got up from the floor. She ran out of the BBQ restaurant, but Xu Xiyan was nowhere to be seen.

Just then, Fang Xiaocheng felt a chill rise from the soles of her feet; it crept upwards, all the way to the top of her head. A terrible thought occurred to her: this had to be a kidnapping. What was she to do?

Those men had rushed into a public building and snatched Xu Xiyan away in broad daylight. They were worse than thugs. Was Xu Xiyan in danger?

Frightened, Fang Xiaocheng thought of calling the police, but she knew it would be some time before the police sent someone to investigate.

Fang Xiaocheng was worried sick for Xu Xiyan. She needed all the help she could get.

Fang Xiaocheng suddenly thought of Huo Yunshen and the number he had left her. He had told her that she was welcome to dial the number any time she needed help—he would do his best to help her, no strings attached.

She had assumed then that Huo Yunshen was just being polite, and anyway she had not been unlucky enough to have to call the number and ask for his help. But now Fang Xiaocheng did not hesitate to dial the number. She would take whatever help he could offer; it was better than sitting around twiddling her thumbs, waiting for something to happen.

The number Huo Yunshen gave Fang Xiaocheng was actually Yi Xiao's. Yi Xiao answered his phone, and was surprised to hear that it was Fang Xiaocheng. As soon as he learned of what had happened to Xu Xiyan, he immediately reported it to Huo Yunshen.

Huo Yunshen was frantic with worry when he heard that Xu Xiyan had been kidnapped. He wheeled himself out the door without bothering to change his clothes or shoes. At the same time, he issued an order to Yi Xiao: "Get someone to look for her, quickly. Find her, and make sure she's safe, as soon as you can!"

“Young Master, I’ve already sent a few men to investigate. We should be hearing from them soon.”

Yi Xiao always knew what Huo Yunshen wanted. He knew what needed to be done, and when.

Huo Yunshen had not even reached the front door of his mansion when Yi Xiao’s men reported back with their findings. They had checked the surveillance video for the BBQ restaurant, found the suspects’ vehicle, and tracked it to a private estate.

But security was tight in the estate; it was difficult for someone without authorized access to see what was going on inside.

Huo Yunshen inwardly seethed. Someone had been bold enough to lay a finger on Xu Xiyan in broad daylight. Whoever it was probably had a death wish.

Huo Yunshen wanted badly to take several men with him on a rescue mission to save Xu Xiyan, but his wheelchair would slow everyone down. His best bet was to send his most efficient man to execute the rescue mission.

Who should he send?

The best man for the job was—Ye Xun.

Huo Yunshen already knew Ye Xun’s real identity: he was an outstanding member of JS, and his codename was Dark Dragon.

Ye Xun was soaking comfortably in his bathtub when Huo Yunshen called him on his phone.

He glanced at his phone, and saw that it was Huo Yunshen’s number. The last time Huo Yunshen had called him, he had asked Ye Xun to help pick up Ying Bao. What was it this time?

Ye Xun lazily raised the phone to his ear. “Yes?”

Chapter 480 - Hypocrite

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The voice that sounded over the phone was grave and icy. “Dark Dragon, Jing Xi is in danger. Her coordinates have been sent to you. As Supreme Commander of JS HQ, I hereby task you with this honorary rescue mission, to be carried out without delay. No mistakes. Disobey me, and you will be punished according to JS law!”

Before Ye Xun could process all that, the call ended.

His brain remained fried for a few seconds. Hold on, who had that been on the phone?

Huo Yunshen?

And he had called him Dark Dragon?

And wait, what else had he said? Supreme Commander of JS HQ? Honorary rescue mission?

There was only one person in all of JS who could give out honorary missions as Supreme Commander: Zeus.

Uhhhhhhhhhh...

Ye Xun was sure he had been hearing things. The call couldn't have been from Huo Yunshen. It didn't sound like him. He checked the number again—okay, it was definitely Huo Yunshen.

Ye Xun's mind was in a jumble: Oh my god, I thought he might be Zeus, and now I finally know for sure!

Huo Yunshen is Zeus!

Master Zeus personally contacted me and gave me a mission!

Oh my god, what did I do to deserve this honor?

Wait, what was the mission again?

He was supposed to rescue someone ASAP... Jing Xi?

Ye Xun's jumbled thoughts finally sorted themselves out. The gravity of the situation dawned upon him.

He was an elite member of JS, and all his training had not been for nothing. Ye Xun was quick to adapt and respond to any situation: it took him less than 10 minutes after receiving the call to prep his gear, arm himself, and walk out the door. This was the highest level of speed and efficiency.

There was no time to lose, so he hopped onto a motorcycle and sped towards the private estate, located in a hilly area of Peijing.

...

Xu Xiyan was tossed onto a large, soft bed. Her hands and feet were tied—she looked for all the world like a trussed chicken. She struggled in vain to get up.

Who were these people?

What did they want with her?

These were the questions running through her mind when a fat balloon of a man entered the room. It was Li Dazhuang. He waved the other men away. "Leave us."

Xu Xiyan knew that voice. A chill ran down her spine. Was the person who had kidnapped her Mr. Li, the head of Lianzhong?

With great effort, Xu Xiyan turned her head to look at the obese man. She said, surprised, "You did this, Mr. Li?"

Li Dazhuang clasped his hands behind his back as he paced the floor before the bed. There was a flicker of lecherous amusement in his eyes as he studied Xu Xiyan, who was still lying on the bed. "Bingo. I asked my men to invite you over."

Xu Xiyan snorted. "Is this how you send an invitation?"

"My apologies, Ms. Xu. Those men of mine are unsophisticated brutes—they may have been a little crass with

their invitation,” explained Li Dazhuang. He made no move to untie her, however.

“Why did you ‘invite’ me here today, Mr. Li?”

Xu Xiyan was trying her best to stall for time as her fingers worked furiously behind her.

“Ms. Xu, you should know by now that my love for you is sincere. I wanted to ask you out five years ago, but I let that opportunity slip away. Now that I’ve been given another chance, we should get to know each other better this time around, don’t you think?”

He had always thought of Xu Xiyan as a juicy piece of meat, one that he had drooled over for many years. Finally, the day he had been waiting for was here—he would finally be able to devour her!

Xu Xiyan inwardly rolled her eyes: “my love for you is sincere?”

He was married with kids, but cheated on his wife at every opportunity. This man knew nothing of sincerity. He was a hypocrite.

Ugh, he’s so disgusting I think I’m going to hurl!

Xu Xiyan suddenly felt the mattress sink to one side: Li Dazhuang, the massive landwhale, had jumped onto the bed beside her, creating a small crater around him.

A greedy look crept over Li Dazhuang’s face as his fingers, adorned with red rubies, stroked Xu Xiyan’s cheek.

...

Chapter 481 - : A Lot More Exciting With You Tied Up

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyao turned her face away in disgust. She inwardly cursed Li Dazhuang a hundred times: Damn fatso! Go to hell!

Right now, her top priority was to get the repulsive creature to untie her. She needed to improve her chances of escaping, so Xu Xiyao decided to put on an act. “I’m so flattered you found me worthy of your time and attention, Mr. Li. I’m sorry I missed that boat, too. You’re a truly exceptional man, one in a million. I wish I’d met you earlier—I would have latched onto your back and had you carry me to fame and success.”

Li Dazhuang was pleased to hear that. “Heh, it’s not too late to latch onto me!”

Xu Xiyao struggled a little. “Mr. Li, look at me, I’m all tied up. I couldn’t latch onto you even if I wanted to. Can you untie me, please?”

“Ooooh, you want me to untie you? Okay, let me help...”

Li Dazhuang did not undo the knots. Instead, he seized the opportunity to run his hands all over her.

He had no intention whatsoever of untying her. He was aware that Xu Xiyao was a martial arts stunt double who knew how to put up a fight.

“You have such beautiful skin, Ms. Xu. I think it’s a terrible waste for a beauty like you to be a stunt double.”

Li Dazhuang tried to tempt her with promises even as he continued to molest her. “If you agree to be with me, Ms. Xu, I

promise I'll make you the queen of show business. You'll be a superstar.”

“Of course I agree, why wouldn't I? But you have to untie me first, okay?”

Xu Xiyan arched backwards and turned her head away to avoid Li Dazhuang's unwelcome touch.

Li Dazhuang did not bother hiding his lust. He caressed her body as though toying with a beautiful, inanimate work of art. “But I think it's a lot more exciting with you tied up. Don't you agree, Ms. Xu?”

Exciting my ass!

By this point, Xu Xiyan knew that Li Dazhuang was definitely not going to untie her. What next?

Someone help me, please! Xu Xiyan had been inwardly crying for help since the beginning of this ordeal, but she knew she was doomed. Who was going to save her now?

Was this her fate?

...

The roar of the motorcycle engine abruptly ceased as Ye Xun leapt off his ride, abandoning it. He strode purposefully towards the gate to the estate, head held high.

The bodyguards on gate duty saw his unfamiliar face and stopped him. One of them asked, “What business do you have here?”

Ye Xun did not bother replying. He made short work of the bodyguards, and then kicked the gate open. The other guards inside the estate saw that he was trespassing, and ran to capture him.

Ye Xun opened his windbreaker. He pulled out his weapons and ruthlessly mowed down the obstacles in his way.

The bodyguards in the private estate did not have any weapons on them. They did not stand a chance against Ye Xun.

A bodyguard stepped forward to stop him. One down. Two bodyguards ran up to stop him. Two down. The private estate

may as well have been completely deserted, for all the difference the bodyguards made to Ye Xun.

Ye Xun grabbed a bodyguard around the neck. “Where’s Jing Xi? Tell me!”

“O-Over there...” The bodyguard pointed towards a room in a villa.

Ke-rack! Ye Xun twisted the other man’s neck, breaking it. He ran towards the room.

He kicked the door open, and frantically scanned the room for Xu Xiyan. When he saw she wasn’t in the common area, he opened the door to the inner room with another mighty kick.

He finally found Xu Xiyan—and reeled in shock at the sight of her blood-stained hands. “Little Xixi?”

Xu Xiyan was panting with exhaustion. She got up from the floor and wiped her bloody hands on the bedsheet. “Second Senior, why are you here?”

“What do you think?! I’m here to save you, dammit!”

Ye Xun found an obese man lying motionless on the bed, face down. Beside him was a tangle of ropes and a bloody blade. The bedsheet was soaked with blood.

What happened?

Had he been too late?

“Little Xixi, are you hurt?”

“A little.” Xu Xiyan nonchalantly wiped the blood trickling from her forehead. “Second Senior, I need your help, quick!”

“What do you want me to do?”

“Help me flip him over.”

Ye Xun did as he was told. He flipped the man over, and sucked in a sharp breath at the horrifying sight. “You did this...?”

...

Chapter 482 - Was She Into That Kind of Thing?

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“I had to defend myself,” said Xu Xiyan with a helpless look on a face. She took out her phone and handed it to Ye Xun. “Help me take all his clothes off and take a nude photo of him.”

“What? A nude photo?”

Ye Xun’s eyes were wide with surprise. He could not even begin to describe his feelings of shock and confusion—why did Xu Xiyan want him to take a photo of the fat bastard?

“Yes! Hurry up and take the photo!”

“... ”

Ye Xun swallowed heavily. He now knew that he had been underestimating Xu Xiyan the entire time.

He had come to rescue her after receiving the supreme order, and had envisioned many different scenarios along the way, all of which involved Xu Xiyan being too helpless to fight off the bad guy. He had thought it would be an excellent opportunity for him to impress Xu Xiyan with his fighting skills—he would be her knight in shining armor, and maybe, just maybe, she would be persuaded to see him in a different light.

But Xu Xiyan had not needed his help. She had dealt with the pervert with her bare hands.

Ye Xun wanted badly to tell her: Xu Xiyan, you make all of us men look weak and useless!

Xu Xiyan had been forced to save herself because she did not know that Huo Yunshen had sent Ye Xun to rescue her. She had been alone with no sign of help being on the way.

The very second Li Dazhuang pounced on her, she finally freed herself from the ropes.

It was too bad for Li Dazhuang—a free Xu Xiyan was an angry, I'll-fight-to-the-death Xu Xiyan.

The disgusting pig had kicked her as she fought him off, causing her to hit a corner of the table and cut her forehead.

But Xu Xiyan had gotten back up and ruthlessly beat him into a pulp. As the finishing touch, she castrated him with a blade she had found.

She was satisfied. She had eradicated the “root” of the problem, so to speak. Li Dazhuang would never be able to harm women again!

Ye Xun was extremely reluctant to take naked photos of Li Dazhuang: the man's figure—or lack thereof—was repulsive to look at. The disgusting sight was defiling his eyeballs.

But he could not refuse Xu Xiyan's request, and ended up taking a large number of photos for her.

After handing the phone to her, he asked, “What are you going to do with the photos?”

“Keep them, of course... and savor them.”

Xu Xiyan smiled slyly.

Ye Xun: “...”

Ye Xun stared at the change in Xu Xiyan's expression. What, was she into that kind of thing?

Xu Xiyan was only joking, of course. She wasn't keeping the photos to admire her handiwork; they were her insurance, to keep Li Dazhuang from avenging himself.

If he had the balls to try to get back at her, she would publish his nudes.

Xu Xiyang then pulled another gutsy move. She kept the photos of Li Dazhuang in his full birthday suit, but sold the photo of his castration to an entertainment news outlet, earning herself an easy 50,000 Yuan.

Xu Xiyang went to the hospital, accompanied by Ye Xun, to get the wound on her forehead bandaged. Luckily for her, the wound was close to her hairline. Her stylist would be able to hide the wound with her bangs; it would not affect her shoot in any way.

After a long, harrowing day, Xu Xiyang finally returned to Shengshi Yujing.

As they bade goodbye to each other, Xu Xiyang realized that Ye Xun was acting funny. He seemed to be struggling with himself. “What’s wrong, Second Senior?”

Ye Xun scratched his head. He deliberated over the question for a long moment, and finally decided he had to ask. “Little Xixi, I have something to ask you. Do you know Zeus?”

“Zeus? You mean your boss?”

Xu Xiyang did not know why Ye Xun was suddenly asking her about this. “If only! If I knew who he was, I’d stop walking and stick to crawling for the rest of my life to show my respect.”

It was an exaggeration, but the implication was clear: there was no way she would know someone like Zeus.

Ye Xun had guessed that Xu Xiyang probably did not know Huo Yunshen’s real identity.

Even in JS, only a handful knew what Zeus really looked like. And now, as it turned out, Ye Xun had not only seen his face, he actually lived opposite him.

Just thinking about it made him giddy with excitement.

Ye Xun’s idol was the Supreme Commander, the Big Boss, Zeus. He knew all of Zeus’s legendary feats by heart.

Chapter 483 - Kiss Her To His Heart's Content

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Ye Xun knew that Zeus was a genius who had taken over the JS Group at the age of 14, and then single-handedly destroyed the Tiwana mafia two years later, at the age of 16. It was a truly miraculous feat, one that was unparalleled in the long history of mercenaries.

It was common knowledge that Zeus always kept a low profile. He was very mysterious: only a small handful of people had met him in person. Ye Xun's idol, Zeus, had been a complete enigma to him—up until that phone call.

Xu Xiyan waited for Ye Xun to say something. When he remained silent, she asked, “Why are you suddenly asking about Zeus?”

“Would you believe me if I told you it was Zeus who ordered me to go on a mission to rescue you?”

The top-level confidential order and supreme honorary mission Ye Xun had received from JS HQ could only be from Zeus. No one else had the authority to give out those orders.

It was clear, then, that Zeus wanted to protect Xu Xiyan.

“You're kidding, right? The great Zeus? Protecting me?” Xu Xiyan was curious. “Do I look like I need to be protected?”

“Nope, not at all. I pity the thugs and hooligans unlucky enough to cross your path.”

Before entering his room, Ye Xun stopped to casually add over his shoulder, “But here's a friendly reminder: no man will ever

want you if you keep acting like a tough guy.”

“Says who?”

Xu Xiyan inwardly rolled her eyes: Was he blind? She already had someone pampering her and treating her like a princess, okay?

After their friendly verbal spar, Xu Xiyan turned, ready to enter her apartment. Just then, the door to Huo Yunshen’s apartment opened and a wheelchair rolled into view.

“Jing Xi, are you hurt?”

Huo Yunshen looked at Xu Xiyan, his eyes full of concern. His heart constricted at the sight of the blood on Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan enjoyed being fussed over by her prince charming. She had wanted to say she was all right, but now she changed her mind. “I think it’s a small wound, but it really hurts.”

Huo Yunshen was already right before her. He grabbed her hand and said, “Come with me, I’ll help clean your wound.”

“Okay.”

Back in his apartment, Huo Yunshen found a medical kit and helped Xu Xiyan clean the cut on her forehead. Though it had already been bandaged, he wanted to have a look and treat it, himself.

“All done. Make sure to keep the wound dry. It should heal up in a few days.”

“Okay.”

His calloused fingers moved from the wound on her forehead to caress her cheek. Their eyes locked in an intense gaze.

They stared at each other, the air between them growing increasingly warm and thick with desire.

Huo Yunshen swallowed heavily. He slowly approached her, close enough for their breaths to mingle.

A gentle kiss fell upon her lips—his thin lips tentatively pressed against her soft lips before quickly pulling away. A

few seconds passed, and his warm lips were attacking hers once again.

His large, sturdy hand pulled her into his lap. He folded his arms around her and began kissing her boldly, without restraint.

Only the gods above knew how anxious and worried he had been when he had heard of her kidnapping. He was so glad she was back with him now.

At that moment, he wanted only to hold her tight in his arms, and kiss her to his heart's content.

The next day, the internet was full of the shocking news of Li Dazhuang's castration.

Huo Yunshen felt that Li Dazhuang had deserved it. In fact, castrating him was letting him off too easy.

Whoever tried to bully his woman would end up regretting it. Huo Yunshen always made sure of that.

He told Yi Xiao to make Li Dazhuang and his company "disappear" from Peijing. He did not want to see Li Dazhuang, that vile, obese bastard, ever again.

...

The new single "Maybe" and its MV had become a hit in Peijing. Around the same time, Xu Xiyan was officially picked to be the female lead for "Root of Evil."

Xiao Yuqian helped Xu Xiyan negotiate the terms of her contract with the production team for "Root of Evil." Xu Xiyan was now set to formally join the cast of "Root of Evil" in two days.

Before that, Xu Xiyan received a phone call from Xiao Yuqian, asking her to report to Jingyue Entertainment as they had something to discuss.

Xu Xiyan got up bright and early for her appointment. She walked briskly into the building; the first person she met was Wan Dou.

Chapter 484 - Feelings Of Love

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Morning, Wan Dou.”

“Morning, Ms. Jing Xi!” Wan Dou waved her hand in greeting. She quickly added, “Ms. Jing Xi, look, I bought the same bracelet as yours.”

“The same what?”

“You didn’t know? That bracelet on your wrist is now available for purchase on Taobao. They’re selling like hotcakes!”

“Let me see.”

Xu Xiyan was puzzled. She walked a little closer, and saw a bracelet around Wan Dou’s fair wrist. The bracelet had a dice pendant hanging from it, just like her own.

Wan Dou found the Taobao page and showed it to Xu Xiyan. The tags in the product title said “Same design as Jing Xi’s” and other such marketing gimmicks. The bracelets were, as Wan Dou had said, selling like hotcakes.

Xu Xiyan looked at the images in the product description, and saw that some of them were screenshots taken directly from her TV interviews.

She also noticed that the seller had quoted an old poem by the Tang Dynasty poet, Wen Tingjun, in the product description:

“The red dot on the delicate bone dice represents the love I have for you. Do you understand what that feels like?”

This was a love poem describing feelings of love so profound they were deeply embedded in the poet's bones.

Xu Xiyan looked at the dice around her wrist. She was comparing it with the design on Taobao when it suddenly dawned on her.

If a dice bracelet was supposed to be a metaphor for the yearning between two lovers, did that mean that Huo Yunshen was using this dice to tell her he was always thinking of her?

Oh my god, thought Xu Xiyan. He already gave me a hint a long time ago, but I was too stupid to look under the surface. I wasted so much time!

So what did the bracelet mean?

It meant that Huo Yunshen had fallen for her a long time ago, haha!

Xu Xiyan's heart swelled with emotion at the thought. She hugged Wan Dou in her excitement. "Thank you, Wan Dou! Thank you!"

She released Wan Dou and ran joyfully towards Xiao Yuqian's office.

Wan Dou watched her rapidly retreating back. She scratched her head, unable to comprehend why her boss had suddenly thanked her.

Xu Xiyan entered Xiao Yuqian's office with a radiant smile on her face. Xiao Yuqian gave her a puzzled look as she greeted her. "Yanyan, you look like you're in high spirits today!"

"That's right, I'm in a good mood." Xu Xiyan seated herself before Xiao Yuqian and asked with a smile, "President Xiao, what are we discussing today?"

"You've recently been selected as the leading lady for 'Root of Evil,' and that helped generate a lot of positive buzz for you. A few companies have asked you to audition for their TV commercials. Take a look, and pick one."

Xiao Yuqian handed her a file with all the details. Xu Xiyan was very surprised; she had not expected to receive TV commercial offers so soon.

The commercial offers were for a wide range of products: food, sanitary napkins, drinks, and clothing. Some of the offers were better than the others. Xu Xiyan asked Xiao Yuqian, “They all look equally good to me, President Xiao. Which one should I choose?”

“There are no real requirements for the job offers from the food, sanitary napkins, and drinks companies. Once you’re selected, you’ll probably have to be their product spokesperson. As for this offer from ROSUE, the clothing brand—they’re extremely picky, and you will have a lot of competition at the audition. You may not actually get the job.”

Xiao Yuqian gave a fair, unbiased explanation of the pros and cons of each offer. She did not try to force her own opinions on Xu Xiyan; she wanted the actress to decide for herself.

Xu Xiyan considered the offers. She said, “I’ll take whichever’s hardest!”

“Why?” Xiao Yuqian asked, genuinely curious. “As the saying goes, it’s better to be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in a big pond. Why are you giving up easy wins for something much more difficult and uncertain?”

It was simple enough to Xu Xiyan. She smiled and said, “Because a big pond is bigger than a small pond. I like a good challenge, and this is a rare opportunity to prove myself.”

Xu Xiyan was the type of person to face challenges head-on. The harder the challenge, the harder she fought. She wasn’t one to turn around and look for an easier way just because the road was bumpy.

“Okay.”

Xiao Yuqian smiled. Xu Xiyan’s choice was exactly what her boss had anticipated.

She removed the smaller job offers from the file and left her the details for the clothing commercial. She pointed out the time and date of the audition to Xu Xiyan and reminded her not to miss it.

...

Chapter 485 - What A Small World

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

After leaving Jingyue Entertainment, Xu Xiyan headed straight for the set to continue filming.

The shoot in the morning went by without a hitch. She had a working lunch at noon, and once the lunch break was over, it was time for the afternoon's shoot.

She was in the middle of a take when she heard the wail of an ambulance's siren from outside the set. Several members of the production crew began to wonder why an ambulance had come.

Someone went out to see what was going on, and returned to say that Qi Liya, the leading lady for "Red Sleeved Beauty," had been in an accident. Xu Xiyan's heart sank when she heard the news.

She pressed for more information, and learned that the accident had happened during one of Qi Liya's wire stunts: she had been suspended in mid-air when the wires suddenly snapped, sending her plummeting to the ground. It had been a nasty fall.

The ambulance had been sent for, and Qi Liya was now on the way to First People's Hospital.

As soon as she was done filming that afternoon, Xu Xiyan left the set, fully intending to hurry over to the hospital to see Qi Liya.

She walked quickly, and did not notice the puddle on the side of the road—or the minivan that was coming up from behind

her.

Splash! The wheels of the minivan ran through the puddle, soaking Xu Xiyan with muddy water.

Xu Xiyan shook off the disgusting water. Temper flaring, she shouted automatically, “Watch where you’re going! What, are you in a hurry to go to hell or something?”

The minivan screeched to a halt. The passenger door slowly opened, and a pair of heels, ten centimeters tall, emerged from the car and made contact with the ground.

Xu Xiyan frowned. What a small world—the minivan that had splashed her was Xu Xinrou’s.

Xu Xinrou’s outfit was elegant and expensive, and her face had been exquisitely made up. She stepped out of the car in her high heels, and stood gracefully before Xu Xiyan.

It was obvious that the public announcement of her romance with Huo Jingtang had boosted her ego: she was practically glowing, and her posture was haughtier than usual.

Xu Xinrou looked Xu Xiyan up and down. A smug smile spread across her face. “Oh my, if it isn’t Jing Xi, the actress rumored to be dating Ni Yun! What happened? You look like you just crawled out of the gutter!”

Her eyes were full of ridicule and disdain. She was implying that Xu Xiyan had deliberately spread the rumors about being in a relationship with Ni Yun to get a leg up in the industry.

Xu Xinrou did not believe for a minute that Xu Xiyan had been awarded the lead role in “Root of Evil” because of her acting skills. Xu Xinrou had helped Yang Qiong spam the poll with fake votes, but had messed up, resulting in Yang Qiong’s disqualification. Xu Xinrou was sure that Xu Xiyan would have never gotten the role had Yang Qiong remained in the running.

Someone—she did not know who— had discovered that the poll results were being manipulated, and then reported Yang Qiong to the poll organizers for cheating. Xu Xinrou was convinced that Xu Xiyan did not deserve the role; she had merely lucked out.

Xu Xiyan gave her a pointed look as she said indignantly, “My clothes are dirty because you told your driver to splash me with filthy puddle water.”

Xu Xinrou pretended to look surprised. She covered her mouth demurely with a hand as she laughed and said, “Dear me, you think I ordered my driver to do that? Are you perhaps suffering from a persecution complex? Why not go all the way, and accuse me of having dug this hole here, just so there would be a puddle ready to splash you with when you walk by?”

“Oh yes, I am clearly suffering from a persecution complex and extreme paranoia. Well, since you’re here, I have a few questions for you. Were you behind Qi Liya’s accident?”

Xu Xiyan knew of Xu Xinrou’s sinister methods. After wrapping up her scenes for “Red Sleeved Beauty,” Xu Xiyan had not been able to rest easy; her instincts told her Xu Xinrou would try to sabotage Qi Liya.

Now that Qi Liya had gotten into an accident, Xu Xiyan’s immediately suspected Xu Xinrou of having masterminded it.

Xu Xinrou snorted as she crossed her arms. “Jing Xi, as the saying goes, you don’t have to watch what you eat, but you do have to watch what you say. Why would I have anything to do with Qi Liya’s accident?”

“I don’t know, that’s a question for your conscience. And what about the wrap party, a few nights ago? You spread the rumors about Qi Liya and Director Huang, didn’t you?”

Xu Xiyan had meant to question Xu Xinrou about it, but had been too busy to find the time. Now that they had bumped into each other, it was time to get the truth out of her.

Xu Xinrou’s face immediately darkened. Her denial was prompt and unequivocal: “I had nothing to do with the rumors about their affair.”

Chapter 486 - An Item

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Oh, really? That assistant of yours—Wen Li—snapped quite a few photos that night. Didn’t she ask for your permission before releasing those photos?” asked Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xinrou glowered. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. Why would my assistant do something like that? You shouldn’t go around accusing others if you don’t have any proof to back up your claims.”

“You better pray long and hard that the rumors from the party—and the wire accident earlier today—aren’t connected to you. It’s not going to be pretty if the truth comes out and it turns out you were behind both incidents,” Xu Xiyan warned.

Xu Xinrou paled a little at that, but her expression quickly returned to normal. She said scathingly, “So now you’re spiting me on Qi Liya’s behalf, eh? Wow, she must have bribed you with a lot of favors.”

Xu Xinrou hated Qi Liya: she was an annoying obstacle who was always snatching roles from her, preventing Xu Xinrou from taking the limelight.

She had asked Huo Jingtang not to offer Qi Liya any more work—to “ice” the actress, in show biz lingo—but he had refused. Qi Liya was still useful to him, and he wanted to wait until filming for “Red Sleeved Beauty” had wrapped up before deciding what to do with her.

Xu Xinrou had gone along with it, but had finally reached the end of her rope earlier that day and sabotaged Qi Liya herself. She had thought that was the end of the matter, but now here was Xu Xiyan accusing her of having masterminded the

accident. It irked her to see Xu Xiyan jump to Qi Liya's defense and speak on her behalf.

Xu Xiyan gave a wry smile as she explained, "No, Ms. Qi did not bribe me with anything. I care about her because she's worth it. Unlike some people, she's not the type to pretend to be nice and then stab you in the back. She's honest. And anyway, this isn't about her—I'd go up against you any day."

Xu Xiyan was in a hurry. She did not have time for Xu Xinrou's nonsense.

She began to move away, but Xu Xinrou said behind her back, "Jing Xi, I'll be marrying Huo Jingtang soon. Do you know what will happen then to all those who try to oppose me?"

Xu Xiyan let out a long sigh. She had guessed that this was the real reason Xu Xinrou had sought her out: she wanted to rub the fact that she and Huo Jingtang were now an item in her face, and warn her to keep out of her way.

Turning around, Xu Xiyan put on a radiant smile and said, "Oh? You're going to marry Huo Jingtang? Congratulations! I congratulate you on your masterful seduction skills—you managed to score yourself one of the few golden bachelors in Peijing! I'm so impressed, please, allow me to grovel at your feet, oh mighty one!"

Xu Xinrou's face turned white. Xu Xiyan had made her accomplishment sound cheap and distasteful.

"Whatever, you're just jealous. Hate on me all you want! I'll be Mrs. Huo soon, and when that happens, Yunhai Entertainment will be within my grasp. You'll be like an insignificant bug to me then. You want to stay in show business? Watch me make your life a living hell!"

There was now a hint of something savage in Xu Xinrou's exquisite face.

"Fine. Bring it on. We'll see which one of us gets the last laugh."

Xu Xiyan was unfazed. She had a photo of Li Dazhuang and Xu Xinrou "on the casting couch," so to speak, and she wasn't afraid to use it. The photo had been inadvertently taken by

Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi during one of their vacations.

If Xu Xinrou tried to sabotage her again, Xu Xiyan would not hesitate to retaliate.

“Hmph!” The conversation had ended on a sour note. Xu Xinrou stared daggers at Xu Xiyan before whipping around and climbing into the minivan.

The minivan drove away. Xu Xiyan left the studio lot and returned to Shengshi Yujing to shower and change her clothes. Once she was clean and presentable, she hurried over to First People’s Hospital.

In the hospital, Xu Xiyan learned that Qi Liya had been treated for her injury. There was a small puncture in her lung because she had fallen on a nail, but luckily for her, she had not broken any bones. All she needed was some proper bed rest, and she would be able to go home relatively soon.

Qi Liya was still unconscious, but her assistant, Xiao Ke, was in the room, watching over her. Xu Xiyan decided to come back to visit another day.

...

Aside from Qi Liya’s unfortunate accident, Xu Xiyan found herself busy with another important event: the semifinal for the children’s talent show Ying Bao was participating in would be taking place the next day.

The night before the semifinals, Xu Xiyan and Huo Yunshen stayed up with Ying Bao, who was nestled in her mother’s arms. “Daddy, Mommy, will you come watch my performance tomorrow?”

...

Chapter 487 - You Just Made A Gay Man Out Of Me

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Of course,” said Huo Yunshen, without a moment’s hesitation.

His darling daughter was going to perform on stage; of course he was going to help cheer her on.

“Okay! I’ll do my best, I won’t disappoint Daddy and Mommy. Go me!”

Ying Bao was in high spirits. She extended a tiny fist and bumped fists with her parents.

The next day, Xu Xiyan, Huo Yunshen, Ye Xun, Fang Xiaocheng, and Wang Dazhi attended the talent show to cheer Ying Bao on.

In order to stay incognito, Huo Yunshen had disguised himself before entering the venue. Nobody recognized him.

For her semi-finals performance, Ying Bao chose the cheerful song “Filastrocche e Tiritere” from Little Choir of Antoniano, the Italian children’s choir.

The dance song Cherry Baby had chosen was extremely upbeat and catchy. The audience was quickly swept up in the song’s cheerful exuberance.

She was just a little girl, but she knew how to dominate the stage and hold her audience captive.

Her choreography with the backup dancers was flawless. By the end of the performance, everyone in the audience was on their feet, clapping to the beat and dancing along.

Cherry Baby was given a high score for her dance performance. She had successfully advanced to the finals.

The male host of the talent show walked onto the stage to interview her. “Cherry, you’re so cute and pretty. Who do you take after? Your mother or your father?”

Ying Bao puffed her tiny chest out and said proudly, “My Mommy said that I look like my Daddy. She says he’s the handsomest man in the whole wide world. I have Daddy’s good genes, so I’m pretty good-looking myself.”

It was a clever answer from the cheeky little girl: she had praised both her father and herself at the same time.

The audience burst into laughter. The host smiled and asked, “Oh Cherry, you’re truly amazing! Can you tell Uncle here what your Daddy does for a living? Does he often play with you?”

The host did not know that Ying Bao had been raised by a single mother. The little girl did not like questions about her father.

She did not want to answer the question, so she deflected by asking the host, “Uncle, why are you always asking me about my Daddy? Are you interested in him?”

“I’m not!” The host shrugged helplessly.

Ying Bao put her hands on her hips and said with a warning look in her eyes, “Uncle, you should give up. My Daddy and Mommy already had me, which means my Daddy isn’t interested in men.”

The host was stunned. It took him a moment to realize that the little 4-year-old girl before him had just implied he was gay.

He laughed so hard he had to wipe away a tear. Suddenly, he put on a serious face and said gravely, “Cherry, my dear girl, you just made a gay man out of me!”

The host’s dead-pan expression was spot on: the contrast between his expression and what he was saying was comedy gold.

After a few seconds of silence, the entire hall erupted into laughter yet again. The special guests and the rest of the audience were laughing so hard they were doubled over.

The adorable little tot was an excellent dancer, and had high EQ to boot. Her clever replies were absolutely hilarious.

This was Huo Yunshen's first time seeing his daughter on stage. His heart swelled with pride at her radiant, confident glow and witty replies.

He wanted badly to announce to the world: that's my daughter up there, look!

In a hospital ward elsewhere, Huo Sanyan and her parents were watching the live TV broadcast of Ying Bao's talent show.

Chen Yunlu wiped the tears of laughter from her eyes. She could not help marveling at her granddaughter's adorable charm.

She said to Huo Sanyan, "Look at the little darling, she's such a cutie pie! Now I really want to know who the mother is, she must be something special to be able to bring up such a lovely child. Wait a minute, didn't you used to work as a reporter for the entertainment industry? Can't you ask around, make some inquiries?"

...

Chapter 488 - Trying To Stir Things Up Again

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“I asked around, but I wasn’t able to find out anything. Whoever she is, I’m sure she must be a truly extraordinary woman,” Huo Sanyan replied with a cheery smile.

She already knew the girl’s mother was Jing Xi. But Jing Xi had asked her not to tell her family for now, so she had to pretend not to know anything.

“Yes, of course, that goes without saying.”

Chen Yunlu thought for a moment. Suddenly, an idea occurred to her. “Oh, could it be Tang Shixue? Look at the child, she’s so talented, I’m sure she’s the product of Shixue and your little brother.”

“What? No way!”

Huo Sanyan inwardly rolled her eyes at her mother’s overactive imagination. Why on earth did she think it was Tang Shixue, of all people?

But the more Chen Yunlu thought about it, the more convinced she became. “I think it’s probably her. If I hadn’t objected to their relationship back then, they would have probably gotten together by now. Or maybe they’ve been dating in secret, all this while? Can you ask around and see if you can find out what Tang Shixue has been up to lately?”

“Mom, I don’t have to. I know who Tang Shixue is, she’s a citizen of M country now, and she’s doing really well in the music industry. She’s a super famous singer in Europe and America. I’ve heard from a reliable source that there’s good

chance she'll be invited to our country to perform during the opening ceremony for the Olympic Games. But that isn't important—I can guarantee that there is nothing romantic between her and li'l bro. The child isn't hers, it just isn't possible.”

Huo Sanyan had seen her mother's eyes light up when talking about Tang Shixue, and knew that she was trying to stir things up again.

Tang Shixue was old news. There was absolutely no connection between her and Huo Yunshen now, geez!

Huo Sanyan knew who Tang Shixue was. When Huo Yunshen had been living in M country, he'd had a very good friend: Tang Shiguang.

Tang Shiguang's sister was Tang Shixue.

Tang Shixue had been the only woman who could approach Huo Yunshen back when he was living abroad.

Chen Yunlu refused to believe her daughter. She continued to babble on. “The Olympics is just around the corner, right?”

“That's right.”

Chen Yunlu had grown excited when she heard that Tang Shixue was a famous singer. Her son loved music, too, which meant that he had something in common with Tang Shixue. Now that she already had a grandchild, all she had to do was play cupid and get Tang Shixue and her son together...

Oh yes, what a fantastic idea!

...

The semifinal for the talent show was over. Ying Bao had successfully advanced to the final stage, and now it was time for Xu Xiyan and Huo Yunshen to take her home.

Ying Bao received a toy bear from her Daddy, and was overjoyed. She hugged the toy bear during the entire journey home, refusing to let go. She was determined to sleep with the bear that night.

On the way back, Xu Xiyan received a call from Qi Liya's assistant, Xiao Ke. Qi Liya was now awake.

Xu Xiyan did not have a shoot that afternoon. After lunch, she bought a bouquet of flowers and went to the hospital to visit Qi Liya.

Xu Xiyan held her flowers in one hand as she raised her free hand to knock on the door. To her surprise, the door swung open at her touch: Huang Guoqiang, their director, was already in the room, trying to spoon-feed Qi Liya her porridge. Qi Liya, on the other hand, was trying to tell him she could do it herself.

Xu Xiyan was struck by the scene in front of her. She had always assumed Director Huang to be a tough, stoic man, but here he was, all tender and considerate!

She did not enter the room right away. Instead, she stuck her head through the gap and asked cheerfully, "Ms. Qi, is this a bad time for you?"

As soon as Qi Liya heard the voice, she knew Jing Xi had come.

"Ahem..."

Huang Guoqiang jumped up from his seat beside the bed, set the porridge bowl down, and cleared his throat a few times.

Qi Liya looked gratefully at Jing Xi. She did not know how to tell Director Huang the spoon-feeding was entirely unnecessary without hurting his feelings. Luckily for her, Jing Xi had appeared just in time to save her from the awkward situation.

She greeted Jing Xi warmly. "Jing Xi, is that you? Come on in!"

Xu Xiyan entered the room, a smile on her face and her arms full of flowers. She greeted Huang Guoqiang politely: "Oh, I wasn't expecting to see you here, Director Huang! I guess you aren't busy with filming today."

Chapter 489 - Indescribable Anger

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“That’s right,” said Huang Guoqiang, his face carefully blank.

Xu Xiyan turned to the woman in the hospital bed and said with genuine concern, “What about you, Ms. Qi? Are you feeling better? These flowers are for you.”

“Much better. Thanks.”

Qi Liya accepted the flowers. She inhaled the floral fragrance, and smiled.

She had not broken any of her bones, but a nail on the set had punctured her lung. She would have to stay in the hospital for a while.

Xu Xiyan was relieved to see Qi Liya looking alert and otherwise healthy.

She turned around and saw that there was already a bouquet of roses in the vase on the bedside table. She knew at once who had brought them.

She said teasingly, “Oh my, looks like someone already brought you roses! Let me see, there must be at least 99 roses in there. Who are they from?”

Huang Guoqiang rubbed his neck awkwardly. He turned to look out the window; it was now completely obvious that the roses were from him, and also that he was feeling embarrassed about it.

Qi Liya laughed, but did not answer the question. Xu Xiyan smiled and said, “Let me guess: they must be from your

admirer. Am I right, Ms. Qi? Wow, whoever it is must really care about you.”

“Jing Xi, come on, don’t tease me.” Qi Liya gently chided Jing Xi as her eyes flickered towards the man by the window.

Xu Xiyang had long since caught on to the romantic tension between Qi Liya and Huang Guoqiang. “Ms. Qi, what kind of man do you like? Do you like young, handsome studs like Lin Huaijin? Or do you prefer someone more mature and manly, like Director Huang?”

Huang Guoqiang had not expected to hear his name. He whipped around and shot Xu Xiyang a pointed look. Inside, he was secretly dying of anxiety—he wanted badly to know the answer to the question.

“Enough with that. Don’t ask silly questions.” Qi Liya awkwardly changed the subject. It was not an attempt at deflection; she had not, in fact, given much thought to her private love life.

She had been wounded in love several years ago, and was afraid to love again.

The entertainment industry was a chaotic place; there were good people, bad people, and people who were only after fame and fortune. She would need a miracle to be able to find true love in show business.

Huang Guoqiang was a little hurt by her answer. Was she completely oblivious to his feelings for her?

Was she still in love with Peng Sicheng, the director of “Root of Evil”?

Huang Guoqiang knew a little of Qi Liya’s personal history. He knew that she had dated Peng Sicheng for a while, and that the relationship had ended when Peng Sicheng suddenly asked to break up with her one day.

The breakup had dealt a major blow to Qi Liya. It had wounded her deeply, and she had never recovered from it.

Peng Sicheng had set up camp in Qi Liya’s heart while he, Huang Guoqiang, was likely nothing more than an

insignificant passerby. That thought alone was enough to stoke the flames of an indescribable anger within Huang Guoqiang.

He grabbed his coat from the sofa and said, visibly unhappy, "Please excuse me, Little Qi. I have to return to the set, there are a few things I need to attend to."

"All right. Take care, Director Huang," said Qi Liya politely.

Huang Guoqiang almost coughed up a mouthful of blood. Come on, he thought, I said I'm leaving! Can't you at least pretend to be sorry to see me go?

Huang Guoqiang was already at the door and about to step out of the room when he suddenly remembered something. He turned around to say, "Oh, I almost forgot. Jing Xi, if you're free today or tomorrow, please report to the set. We have to shoot a few in-program ads with you."

"Oh, okay. I'm free this afternoon, I'll look for you once I'm done here."

After Huang Guoqiang had left, Xu Xiyan turned to ask Qi Liya: "They're shooting the in-program ads already? Does that mean they're almost done filming?"

"It's pretty much done."

"When's it showing on TV?"

"Soon, actually! Director Huang will continue shooting new episodes as the show airs. It'll be showing on CCTV during prime time, and he wants to see how well the show does in ratings before deciding how long he wants the show to run for."

Chapter 490 - Touched Her Warm Cheeks

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“Wow! Well, I think the ratings shouldn’t be a problem. I mean, the show has you and Lin Huaijin, the ratings king, in the lead roles. The show is definitely going to be a hit!”

Xu Xiyao could hardly wait to see the show finally go on TV. It was her first TV show, after all.

“I can’t make any guarantees about the ratings, but I’m 100% certain that you’ll be famous once the show goes on air,” Qi Liya said.

“But I’m just a nobody in a small supporting role, a palace maiden.”

Xu Xiyao knew better than to expect such a small, insignificant role to propel her to stardom.

“Don’t underestimate the part of the palace maiden. You were amazing, you brought the character of Yao Yue to life. On top of that, everyone’s been talking about you. The show isn’t even on TV yet, and you’re already famous!”

Xu Xiyao awkwardly rubbed the back of her head. “You mean all that scandalous gossip about me... that’s not exactly good for my image or reputation.”

“Good or bad, it doesn’t matter, as long as you get people talking about you. For a newcomer, you absolutely need exposure, and you already have it! Also, you’re in Ni Yun’s MV. That’s going to help open up doors for you.”

Xu Xiyao laughed. “Well, I hope you’re right, then.”

Qi Liya suddenly remembered that she had been meaning to ask Jing Xi a question. “By the way, what’s Ni Yun like?”

“You want to know about Ni Yun?”

“Yeah. I hear that he’s very mysterious because he keeps a low profile. I’m dying of curiosity—his songs are incredibly moving and I want to know the man behind the music. You were in his MV, you must have met him in person.”

Xu Xiyan was surprised. “Ms. Qi, don’t tell me that you’re in love with Ni Yun?”

“Haha! No, I like his songs, nothing more.”

“Oh,” said Xu Xiyan, relieved. She explained with a cheery smile, “He keeps a low profile, that’s true. And he’s a thoughtful, considerate man. He doesn’t put on airs, he’s honest and sincere. He’s also a loyal, dutiful son...”

Xu Xiyan could not help bringing up Ni Yun’s good points whenever she talked about him.

Qi Liya rested her head upon her arm and watched a blush creep over Xu Xiyan’s cheeks as she gushed over her idol. “You like Ni Yun, don’t you?”

“Oh, haha, that’s right.”

Xu Xiyan had previously admitted in an interview that she liked Ni Yun. It was public knowledge.

But everyone had assumed that she was just another star-struck fan who worshipped her idol. No one had guessed that she was, in fact, actually in love with Ni Yun.

Xu Xiyan touched her warm cheeks, suddenly bashful. She hastily changed the subject. “Oh, that’s enough of him. Let’s talk about you and Director Huang instead...”

Qi Liya knew what she was trying to ask, and immediately cut her short before she could go any further. “Director Huang and I are just friends. You’re overthinking it.”

“Overthinking it? Really? But these roses look so familiar. They’re from Director Huang, aren’t they?”

Xu Xiyan smiled, her eyes curving into pretty crescent moons. She was happy to stay and chat with Qi Liya; she hoped her company and conversation would help lift Qi Liya's spirits and speed her recovery.

Qi Liya turned to look at the delicate roses. She did not say anything.

She knew that Huang Guoqiang was in love with her.

But try as she might, she could not bring herself to take on a new relationship.

Peng Sicheng was a director; because of that, Qi Liya now had an instinctive fear of directors.

The last thing she wanted was to repeat her mistake with yet another director.

Just as the conversation lapsed into silence, a nurse knocked on the door and entered the room. She asked, "Are the family members for bed Number 24 around?"

Qi Liya's bed was bed Number 24, but she did not have anyone from her family with her. Xiao Ke, her assistant, was usually around to watch over her, but Xiao Ke had left to attend to other things and hadn't yet returned.

"I'm the patient for bed Number 24. Is something wrong?" Qi Liya asked.

Chapter 491 - Going Too Far

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The nurse knew who Qi Liya was, but had referred to her with her bed number in accordance with the hospital's special privacy protection measures for celebrities. "Ms. Qi, your medical report is out. We would like to ask someone from your family to go over it with the doctor."

Xu Xiyan asked, "Ms. Qi, is no one from your family around?"

"Xiao Ke looks after me, but she had other things to attend to this afternoon."

A wounded look passed over Qi Liya's face, but it was gone before anyone could catch it. She'd had a falling out with her family several years ago, when she had insisted on going to Peijing with Peng Sicheng to further her career, and had not been in contact with her family ever since.

Her assistant, Xiao Ke, was the only one who genuinely cared about her well-being now.

Since there were no family members around, Xu Xiyan decided it was time for her to step up to the plate. She volunteered herself.

"How about this then—I'll stand in for your family today, and get the report for you. How's that? Do I have the honor?"

"Thank you, Jing Xi."

Qi Liya's heart overflowed with warmth; she had not felt this in a long, long time. She was grateful to Jing Xi for being such a good and sincere friend.

“Everything will be all right. Why don’t you take a nap, Ms. Qi? I’ll be right back.”

Xu Xiyan gave her a small, reassuring smile before following the nurse out the room.

The nurse led Xu Xiyan to the office of Qi Liya’s doctor, who offered the medical report to Xu Xiyan. She read it, and was stunned.

“Doctor, this has to be a mistake. Are you sure about this?”

Xu Xiyan could not believe what she had just read. The results on the report could not be true: Qi Liya had a tumor in her uterus.

She knew now why the nurse had asked for a family member, instead of handing the report to Qi Liya straight away; the nurse was probably worried that Qi Liya would not be able to take the news.

The male doctor pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose and said gravely, “As you can see, we discovered a tumor in Ms. Qi’s uterus. We decided it would be best to discuss her condition with her family first.”

“Is it benign?”

“I’m sorry to say that the tumor is malignant.”

“What should we do?”

Xu Xiyan’s heart sank like a stone. This was going to be a massive blow to Qi Liya.

“We can perform a surgery and remove the tumor, but if that doesn’t work, we may have to remove her uterus. Time is of the essence. We ask that her family members discuss this with her and try to persuade her to go for the surgery as soon as possible.”

Xu Xiyan reeled at the news; she felt as though her scalp had just burst into flames. What the doctor had just described was the absolute worst-case scenario.

A tumor in the uterus... malignant... may have to remove the entire uterus?

Xu Xiyan's thoughts were in a jumble. She wanted to ask the doctor: Do you know have any idea what it means for a woman to have her uterus removed?

It means that she'll never be able to have children of her own. Ever.

Xu Xiyan walked out of the doctor's office with a heavy heart. She felt nauseous. The medical report in her hands seemed to burn her like a hot potato.

She thought despairingly: What should I do? How do I break the bad news to Qi Liya?

Back in the doctor's office, the doctor, whose surname was Xia, exchanged a look with the nurse after Xu Xiyan left.

The nurse asked doubtfully, "Dr. Xia, are you sure about this? What if the hospital finds out?"

"I'll take responsibility if anything goes wrong. What are you afraid of?"

Dr. Xia removed his mask and took a sip of his tea.

The look on the doctor's face was one of complete disinterest. To him, fabricating a patient's medical report was a trivial, insignificant matter.

"But that's Qi Liya, the superstar..."

The nurse was a gentle soul. She was a fan of Qi Liya, and enjoyed watching her shows.

But now her idol had been admitted to the hospital, and instead of helping her, her supervisor was forcing her to deceive the actress and rob her of her future as a mother. The nurse did not have the heart to do it.

"So what if she's a superstar? Big deal! There are only two kinds of people in a hospital: the sick, and the healthy."

It was a huge risk, but Dr. Xia was willing to take it because he would be handsomely compensated for it.

"But Ms. Qi doesn't have uterine cancer. Removing her uterus when there's nothing wrong with it... isn't that going too far?"

Chapter 492 - An Irresistible Offer

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The nurse was just an intern, fresh out of college. She had never seen corruption and shady dealings up-close before this, and the thought of getting involved in an evil scheme scared her.

Dr. Xia had picked her to be his accomplice precisely because he knew she was timid. Fresh graduates like her were the easiest to control.

“Just do as you’re told, and shut up. I’m warning you: you’re already in this with me. There’s no backing out for you now,” growled Dr. Xia menacingly.

And then, not wanting to scare the nurse away, he hastily added in a gentle voice, “Don’t worry, I have it all worked out. The big boss behind this will be paying us handsomely. Even if this gets out, we’ll just say it was a medical accident. If someone finds out about this before the surgery, we’ll say it was a diagnostic error. Got it?”

Dr. Xia had received a lot of “benefits” from the big boss pulling the strings. The big boss was offering him an astronomical amount of money; he could slave away at the hospital for the next several years, and still come nowhere close to earning that much money.

Aside from the money, the big boss would also be recommending the doctor to a famous hospital abroad. This was an irresistible offer for Dr. Xia.

Dr. Xia sat in his chair, dreaming of fame and fortune. He did not realize that Xu Xiyan had recorded everything he had just said.

Xu Xiyan had returned to the doctor's office to ask him something, and had accidentally overheard the shocking revelation from outside the door.

Now that it was clear that someone was trying to sabotage Qi Liya, Xu Xiyan decided it was better not to blow the whistle on the doctor before she knew exactly what was going on.

She stealthily moved away from the doctor's office and returned to Qi Liya's room. Taking a deep breath, she opened the door.

Qi Liya saw that Xu Xiyan had returned. "Jing Xi, thanks for doing this for me. Do you have the report?"

Xu Xiyan had a plan in mind, but she knew that she would have to pretend to play along with the schemers for now. She had to break the cruel news to Qi Liya, even if it was fake; the masterminds behind the scheme expected her to go for the surgery, after all.

"I have it."

"What does it say? Show me."

"I don't think you should read it."

Xu Xiyan hid the report behind her. Qi Liya saw the unhappy look on Xu Xiyan's face, and the way she seemed to be struggling with herself. Her heart sank. She had a bad feeling about the report.

"What's wrong? Show me! Give it here!"

Xu Xiyan gave in to Qi Liya's insistent demands. She handed the report over to her.

Qi Liya saw what was written on the report. She was stunned; she felt as though she had been struck by lightning. When she recovered, she gave a loud cry and said, her voice shrill, "How is this possible? Jing Xi, tell me, please, how is this possible? Why is this happening to me?"

“Ms. Qi...”

Xu Xiyang did not want the news to affect Qi Liya’s recovery. She grabbed hold of her hand and said comfortingly, “Ms. Qi, stay calm. This is curable.”

“Tell me the truth, Jing Xi. What did the doctor say?”

Qi Liya wasn’t stupid. She knew how to read, and the report said that she had a malignant tumor. It was right there on the report, plain as day.

A malignant tumor was basically cancer, wasn’t it?

Why? Why were the gods always trying to rob her of her happiness?

They had robbed her of love when she had been lonely and desperate.

Now that she was fully invested in her work and had a successful career, the gods had decided to play another cruel joke on her.

Were the gods taking away her health, too?

“The doctor said that it’s malignant and has to be operated on as soon as possible. If necessary, they may have to remove your uterus.” Xu Xiyang clenched her fingers into fists as she said this. Her tone was one of righteous anger.

Xu Xiyang was determined to protect Qi Liya at all costs, but in order to do that she had to keep her in the dark for now.

“Remove my... uterus?”

Qi Liya’s hands began to tremble. Her lips quivered as she fought to keep her tears at bay.

“Ms. Qi, don’t let this get to you. It may end up being just a simple, straightforward removal of the tumor. What’s important is that you don’t let this get you down.”

...

Chapter 493 - You Better Be Grateful

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The only thing Xu Xiyan could do now was to try her best to comfort Qi Liya.

“I know. Jing Xi, why don’t you come back another day? I need some time alone.”

Qi Liya put the report down, and lifted her empty eyes to the ceiling. She was extremely depressed; a veil of sorrow hung over her.

“Sure. I’ll be going now. Call me if you need anything.”

Xu Xiyan squeezed Qi Liya’s hand. She left the hospital room with a troubled heart.

Outside the room, she bumped into Xiao Ke, who had just returned. Xu Xiyan pulled the assistant to a secluded corner and briefed her on the situation. After that, she left the hospital.

Qi Liya was now alone in her hospital room. Her thoughts were in a jumble, and her heart ached terribly.

She was overcome with grief and sorrow. Tears streamed silently down her cheeks.

She was still young. She had only been in one romantic relationship. She had yet to find her one true love, marry him, and have children—was she really going to lose her womb, even before she’d had the chance to find true happiness?

Without her womb, was she still a complete woman?

How was she going to face the rest of her life?

Xu Xiyan sent a message to Huo Yunshen once she had left the hospital, telling him that she had to return to the set that afternoon because she had something to attend to.

Huo Yunshen texted her back: “Stay safe. I’ll see you tonight.”

Xu Xiyan drove to the studio lot and walked onto the set for “Red Sleeved Beauty.”

As soon as she entered the set, she saw Wen Li distributing snack packets to the production crew on behalf of Xu Xinrou.

Wen Li saw Xu Xiyan had come, and made a show of turning the empty snack box upside down and shaking it. “Oh my, I’m so sorry, Jing Xi. I didn’t expect you to be here today.

President Huo bought snacks for everyone today, but it looks like we’ve run out!”

Wen Li had deliberately emphasized the words “President Huo” to let everyone know that Huo Jingtang was now Xu Xinrou’s boyfriend. In other words, crossing her would mean crossing Huo Jingtang.

Xu Xiyan already knew all about it: after Huo Jingtang took over Yunhai Entertainment, the first thing he did was sign Xu Xinrou under the Yunhai Entertainment label.

Now that Xu Xinrou was part of Yunhai Entertainment, her status was almost equal to Qi Liya’s.

“That’s okay, thanks.”

Xu Xiyan did not like the way they tried to gain small favors by distributing snacks.

She looked around the set, and saw Xu Xinrou sitting in a recliner, having her makeup touched up.

Xu Xinrou heard Xu Xiyan’s voice, and signaled to the makeup artist to stop for a moment. She sat up and looked at Xu Xiyan. “I have an extra packet here, actually. You can have it, Jing Xi—catch!”

She tossed the snack packet in Xu Xiyan’s direction without asking her whether she actually wanted it. The snack packet

fell short; it dropped to the floor, right before Xu Xiyan's feet.

"Whoops," said Xu Xinrou. "My bad, it landed on the floor."

It was clear what she was really saying: "Go on, pick it up yourself!"

Xu Xiyan gave her an icy look. She knew that Xu Xinrou had meant for this to happen: she had deliberately thrown the snack onto the floor so that Xu Xiyan would have to pick it up like a shameless beggar.

Not picking it up would be equivalent to spitting in Xu Xinrou's face. Everyone on the set would think that she, Jing Xi, was acting like an arrogant diva.

Wen Li gleefully added fuel to the fire. "What are you waiting for, Jing Xi? Pick it up. These pastries are from overseas, President Huo had them couriered here to share with everyone. You can only buy them from overseas, so this is a rare privilege. Ms. Xinrou was kind enough to give you her share, so you better be grateful."

The last sentence—"you better be grateful"—was an explicit warning.

Everyone was now watching Xu Xiyan. She casually bent over and retrieved the snack packet from the floor. She examined the packaging.

"It looks delicious. Too bad I'm allergic to peanut butter. But I don't want to waste this, so how about you eat it, Assistant Wen? You gave everyone a packet, but it looks like you didn't save one for yourself!"

Chapter 494 - His Deepest Secrets

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan immediately walked over to Wen Li, opening the pastry packaging along the way. By the time she reached the assistant, Xu Xiyan had already fished out the peanut butter cream pastry from inside the packet.

“Oh no, you eat it, Ms. Xinrou gave it to you,” said Wen Li as she stared at the pastry in disgust. She did not want to look at anything Jing Xi had touched, let alone eat it.

“I know, but good things are meant to be shared, right?”

Xu Xiyan’s smile was now firmly set on her face. “Assistant Wen, you’ve been so nice to me. Please, let me return the favor by feeding you!”

And then—

Right in front of everyone, Xu Xiyan forcefully stuffed the pastry into Wen Li’s mouth, pressing it in with all her strength.

Xu Xiyan recalled Wen Li’s snide remarks and disdainful looks, and wished the pastry had been dog poop instead.

Wen Li had not been quick enough to avoid Xu Xiyan. Her mouth was now stuffed full of cake. She tried to resist, but Xu Xiyan was stronger than she was: she smeared peanut butter and cream all over Wen Li’s face.

Xu Xiyan released Wen Li and casually wiped her sticky fingers on the assistant’s clothes, as though it was the most natural thing in the world. She patted Wen Li on the shoulder

and said, “There we go. Please, enjoy the pastry, Assistant Wen. Thank you for the snack, Ms. Xu!”

Everyone watched in shock as Xu Xiyan leisurely sauntered back to the set to find the person responsible for the in-program ads.

“Pfft! Pffffffft...”

Wen Li shook off the peanut butter and cream from her face. In her fury, she forgot where she was and began ranting loudly to Xu Xinrou.

“Ms. Xinrou, did you see that?! She stuffed my mouth with food! That Jing Xi is too much, how dare she humiliate me in front of everyone. That means she has no respect for you, you know. We need to teach her a lesson, before she forgets she’s from the Xu family, too.”

“Assistant Wen, watch your tongue!”

Xu Xinrou shot Wen Li a look of warning, telling her to shut up. Jing Xi’s insolent attitude towards Xu Xinrou was nothing new; like Wen Li, Xu Xinrou wanted badly to put Xu Xiyan in her place, but they had to be smart about it and do it in secret.

Wen Li glanced at the people around her and realized she had been too rash. She immediately clammed up.

Deep down, however, she continued to curse Xu Xiyan: Damn you, Jing Xi! Just you wait!

Xu Xinrou had wanted to embarrass Xu Xiyan in front of everyone, but the actress had turned the tables and bullied her assistant instead. It was a slap to the face for Xu Xinrou.

She would have to swallow her anger and resentment for now, and remember to avenge herself later.

Xu Xiyan found the crew responsible for the in-program ads. Once she’d changed into her costume and gotten her makeup done, it was time to begin shooting the ads.

The trend now was to insert the in-program ads seamlessly into the show to act as “commercial breaks” for viewers on online streaming sites.

It was much more convenient this way: the production crew would be able to film the ads on the set, and viewers tended to be much more receptive towards ads that were properly integrated into the show.

Xu Xiyan did not have many lines for her ads. They were easy to remember.

She completed all three of her in-program ads without a hitch. Before leaving the set, Xu Xiyan decided to look for the director, Huang Guoqiang.

Huang Guoqiang was discussing something with the set manager. Xu Xiyan waited until he had finished before walking over to greet him.

“Director Huang, I’m done shooting my in-program ads.”

Huang Guoqiang turned at the sound of her voice, and smiled when he saw that it was Xu Xiyan. He pointed to the chair across him. “You’re done? Excellent. Come, have a seat.”

Xu Xiyan sat down.

Huang Guoqiang had asked Xu Xiyan to sit down and talk because he wanted to ask about Qi Liya. “By the way, Jing Xi, was Little Qi alone in her room when you left the hospital?”

“That’s right.”

Huang Guoqiang nodded. He made a few false starts, not knowing how to broach the subject. “So Little Qi...”

“Don’t worry, Director Huang. Xiao Ke’s with her now.” Xu Xiyan watched him intently with her bright eyes. She decided it was time to lay it all out in the open. “Hey, Director Huang, can I ask you something? Are you in love with Ms. Qi?”

A look of surprise flashed across Huang Guoqiang’s face; this was quickly followed by a smile as he poked her forehead with a finger. “You cheeky girl, nothing gets past you. All right, you’ve seen through me.”

Huang Guoqiang had spent enough time with Xu Xiyan to know that she could be trusted. He opened up to her, revealing to her his deepest secrets.

Chapter 495 - Hooked A Big Fish

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Xu Xiyan thought for a moment and asked, “I hope you don’t mind me asking, but how much do you love Ms. Qi? Do you like her, or are you hopelessly in love with her?”

Huang Guoqiang was embarrassed by her straightforward question. He scratched his head. “You cheeky girl... how am I supposed to answer something like that?”

“This is very important, Director Huang. If you truly love Ms. Qi, I can help you win her affections. But if you aren’t serious about her, then forget it. See you around.”

Xu Xiyan got to her feet, but Director Huang stopped her. “Hey now, what’s the hurry? I haven’t replied!”

Xu Xiyan returned to her seat. She watched him calmly as she waited for his answer.

If Huang Guoqiang’s love for Qi Liya was sincere, Xu Xiyan was fairly certain she could help bring them together.

Huang Guoqiang’s expression grew solemn. He said earnestly, “I love her with all my heart. In fact, I want to marry her.”

Xu Xiyan let out an inward sigh of relief. She put on a serious face and began describing the grim situation Qi Liya was in. “You love her with all your heart, but I’m afraid things are looking bad for her, Director Huang.”

“What do you mean?”

Huang Guoqiang’s heart constricted when he heard Xu Xiyan say that things were looking bad for Qi Liya.

“Um...”

Xu Xiyan sighed deeply. She checked to see that they were alone, and then told Huang Guoqiang in a hushed voice what Qi Liya’s medical report said.

Huang Guoqiang was stunned. For a long moment he sat there, unable to speak.

After a long silence, he finally recovered himself. His face was full of sorrow; it was obvious that he was worried about Qi Liya’s health.

Xu Xiyan watched his expression carefully as she added, “Director Huang, are you still able to accept Ms. Qi, knowing what she has to face?”

Huang Guoqiang looked at her and said sadly, “Jing Xi, as long as she’s willing to take me for her husband, I will love her and cherish her for the rest of my life. I would never leave her.”

This was true devotion.

Xu Xiyan had been waiting for Huang Guoqiang to say this.

Now the million dollar question was: how was Qi Liya going to react to this heartfelt confession?

...

Xu Xiyan was kept extremely busy in the following days. Aside from her acting gigs, she performed in a string of concerts, posing as Xue Yating.

The violin performances were a hit. No one in the audience realized that the “Xue Yating” they had come to see was actually Xu Xiyan in disguise. Xue Yating kept to her promise; she wired Xu Xiyan’s share of the profits into her bank account without delay.

Xu Xiyan returned to Peijing to discover that the city was now livelier than usual, thanks to a recent bombshell: word had just got out that Huo Jingtang, vice president of Yunhai Entertainment, and Xu Xinrou, Juxing Entertainment’s top actress, were getting married.

The reporters had snapped photos of the two of them holding hands. Xu Xinrou's agent had then confirmed that the two were dating, and would be tying the knot soon.

Xu Xiyan was not surprised by the news. She was, however, vaguely impressed that Xu Xinrou had hooked a big fish like Huo Jingtang.

But Huo Jingtang wasn't a good man by any stretch of the imagination, and Xu Xinrou was just as bad, if not worse.

The two of them were bad enough on their own; throwing them together was a recipe for disaster. Xu Xiyan was now genuinely worried for Huo Yunshen and his company, Yunhai Entertainment.

Xu Xiyan stepped out of the airport, and saw that Huo Yunshen's car was already waiting for her outside. Yi Xiao hurried over, took her suitcase from her, and placed it in the trunk as Xu Xiyan stepped into the car.

In the back seat was Huo Yunshen and his daughter; they had waited in the car for what seemed like an eternity. As soon as Ying Bao saw that her Mommy had returned, she launched into a fervent display of her longing and affection. She hugged Xu Xiyan around the neck and kissed her repeatedly on both cheeks.

"Mommy, Mommy, did you miss me?"

"Yes, I did!"

"What about Daddy then? Did you miss Daddy?"

"Of course I missed him too!" Xu Xiyan looked up at the man in question; he was sitting beside her with a faint smile on his face. Their eyes locked, and they smiled at each other.

...

Chapter 496 - Dying To Be Alone With Her

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The car began to move. Huo Yunshen and Xu Xiyan sat close together. Ying Bao sat between them, on top of their laps, basking in the warmth of both her parents.

Huo Yunshen extended an arm and draped it over Xu Xiyan shoulder. The touch of his large, masculine hand was electrifying; Xu Xiyan felt a current run through her, and her limbs and extremities grew numb.

The hand moved gently downwards to rub her back. Huo Yunshen had not said anything, but when Xu Xiyan turned to look at him, she saw the burning passion in his eyes.

She had missed him, but he had missed her a million times more.

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder”—she had only been away for a few days, but Huo Yunshen felt as though he had not seen her for years.

He had missed her so much he thought he was going crazy. He wanted to pull her into his arms and kiss her long and hard, but their daughter was watching.

The little girl had also missed her mother very much. As soon as they returned home, Ying Bao clung to her mother like a koala, refusing to leave her for even a minute.

Huo Yunshen wheeled himself past the living room several times. Mother and daughter were playing together in the living room; it frustrated him to see the beautiful, delectable woman so close at hand, yet out of his reach.

In order to enjoy his “benefits” as soon as possible, he racked his brain and came up with an idea. “Cherry, do you want to go play with Feimo? Daddy can send you over to his place!”

Cherry enjoyed Tang Feimo’s company very much. Her eyes sparkled as she said, “Ooh, I want to play with him! But Feimo said he won’t be at home today!”

Huo Yunshen: “...”

Huo Yunshen returned to his room and called Tang Yichen. “Where are you?”

“I’m driving my family to Jingshan for a day trip. We’re on our way there now,” Tang Yichen answered.

“Old Tang, I want you to come back, right this moment. Report to Shengshi Yujing within 30 minutes, and bring your son, Feimo, with you,” instructed Huo Yunshen.

Tang Yichen was close to flipping out. It was the weekend, the only time he was able to take his family on a vacation. He was already halfway to his destination—and Huo Yunshen wanted him to go back?

Tang Yichen thought Huo Yunshen was being absolutely unreasonable. “Why? It’s the weekend, I deserve my time off!”

“I’ll let you take a day off some other time. Do this for me, and I’ll owe you one. But if you don’t come back, I’ll send your wife that photo of you hugging that lady when you were drunk. Choose wisely.”

Huo Yunshen hung up without waiting for a reply.

On the other end of the line, Tang Yichen stared helplessly at his phone. He had not expected Huo Yunshen to remember that specific incident. It had been a complete misunderstanding: Tang Yichen had had a little too much to drink during a dinner with his clients, and had accidentally fallen on top of a young lady after bumping into her. Unfortunately for him, Huo Yunshen had taken a photo of it to use as blackmail material.

It was an honest mistake, and he hadn't done anything wrong; nevertheless, he did not want his wife to misunderstand. Sometimes, an explanation just wasn't enough. The best way to avoid a misunderstanding was to—

Tang Yichen obediently turned the car around and sped towards Shengshi Yujing. He managed to arrive within 30 minutes.

He knocked on the door to Apartment 101. The door opened, and Tang Yichen presented himself and his son to Huo Yunshen. He asked, "I'm here, Old Huo. What's up?"

"Nothing." Huo Yunshen turned around and called for his daughter. "Cherry, Feimo is here. Go play with him!"

Upon hearing that, Ying Bao immediately rushed down the stairs. She happily went out with Tang Feimo.

Tang Yichen's eyes almost rolled out of their sockets and onto the floor. "That's it? You ordered me to drive back here within 30 minutes just for this?"

"This is extremely important," Huo Yunshen said nonchalantly. "These children are budding flowers, our nation's future pride and joy. Take good care of them. If anything happens to them, I'll hold you responsible!"

Tang Yichen was a smart man. He could tell from Huo Yunshen's strange behavior that: A) his Little Xixi had probably just returned from an outstation trip, and B) he was now dying to be alone with her.

Tang Yichen chuckled. He asked, "Oh, is the lady back home? Want me to teach you a few tricks?"

"Buzz off! I don't need your tricks!"

Bam! Huo Yunshen mercilessly shut the door in Tang Yichen's face.

...

Chapter 497 - Siren Call

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

He did not need Tang Yichen's lame tricks. He was pretty sure those "tricks," whatever they were, would end up hurting him instead of helping him.

Upon returning to the living room, he found that Xu Xiyan was no longer there. He looked all over for her, and finally heard the sound of running water from the bathroom.

He could see, through the misty glass, the vague outline of Xu Xiyan's alluring figure. It was like a siren call. Huo Yunshen swallowed heavily as warmth pooled in his lower abdomen.

He had fantasized about throwing her onto a bed and ravishing her so many times now he had lost count.

But alas! The wheelchair got in his way. He could not act out his fantasies so long as he was in it.

The sound of running water stopped, and Huo Yunshen quickly wheeled himself away.

Xu Xiyan walked out of the bathroom and into the living room, drying her hair with a towel. She saw Huo Yunshen sitting in the living room, reading a magazine, and asked, "Mr. Huo, did Ying Bao leave with Feimo already?"

"Yeah." Huo Yunshen lifted his dark, sultry eyes and stole a glance at Xu Xiyan from over the magazine. He could feel a nosebleed coming on.

Xu Xiyan had just showered, and was now dressed in a thin nightdress with a low neckline. From where he was sitting, he had a clear view of her cleavage.

And—this almost killed him—she wasn't wearing a bra. He could see the perfect shape of her breasts through the thin fabric of her pajamas. It was too much for him; he suddenly realized he had yet to touch them...

His eyes glazed over. The front of his trousers was becoming a little too tight to be comfortable. Huo Yunshen put down the magazine and extended a hand towards her, "Jing Xi, come here."

"What's up, Mr. Huo?"

As soon as Xu Xiyan was near enough, Huo Yunshen seized the opportunity to grab hold of her arm and pull her onto his lap.

Xu Xiyan fell onto his lap. Their eyes locked as the rest of the world dwindled away around them.

Huo Yunshen gently caressed her rosy lips with his calloused fingers. "Isn't it time for you to stop calling me 'Mr. Huo?' I'm sure a lot of people would be confused by it. People might even complain..."

"Who's been complaining!? Tell them to own up—I'll beat them half to death!"

Huo Yunshen's chest rippled with laughter. He tapped her on the nose and said, "Don't change the subject. Call me something else."

Xu Xiyan had been so used to calling him "Mr. Huo" she had not given any thought to it.

She found it immensely embarrassing to have to change the way she addressed him now.

What should I call him?

"What do you want me to call you? President Huo?"

"Call me that and I'll bite you, don't think I won't!"

As punishment, he lowered his head and nipped at her delicate collarbone.

Xu Xiyan felt a current run through her whole body. She hunched her shoulders reflexively. "How about I call you Huo

Yunshen?”

Huo Yunshen was evidently not satisfied with that; he lowered his head and bit her earlobe. Xu Xiyan quickly said, “Fine, I’ll call you Yunshen. Is that okay?”

That was much better. Huo Yunshen let her go, but continued to pin her with his intense gaze. “Okay. Try it.”

“Yunshen.”

Oh yes. Her voice calling him by his given name was music to his ears.

He wanted to hear it again, so he pretended not to have heard. “I can’t hear you.”

“Yunshen!”

“I still can’t hear you.”

“Yuuuun Sheeen.”

“Hmm? Is there something wrong with my ears?”

He was being silly now, but he wanted to hear her call his name, again and again.

Xu Xiyan lost her temper at that. She reached out and mussed his hair with both her hands. “Oh jeez, now you’re just messing with me! You know what, I’m not going to call you Yunshen anymore. From now on, I’ll call you Uncle Huo.”

He was five years older than her, so “Uncle” did not seem too far off the mark. Besides, wasn’t it popular nowadays to call the male leads in Korean dramas “Uncle”?

“Uncle Huo? What... are you saying I’m too old for you?”

...

Chapter 498 - Jackpot Of All Jackpots

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

Huo Yunshen inwardly cried. He wished now that he had never started this conversation in the first place.

He had wanted her to address him in a more intimate manner, but this had backfired and she was now making fun of his age.

Xu Xiyan laughed so hard she had to catch her breath. She added teasingly, “Heh, so now you know. I have plenty of young, handsome men around me—you know, what they call ‘little fresh meat.’ Bully me again, and I’ll go hook up with one of them.”

“Don’t you dare!” said Huo Yunshen, his voice shrill with sudden panic at the thought. His fingers attacked her waist, tickling her ruthlessly as he said, “This is what happens if you don’t behave yourself!”

“Hahaha...”

Their joyful laughter echoed throughout the apartment.

The playful teasing went on for a few minutes. Huo Yunshen could not restrain himself any longer; he leaned closer to her, desperate for an intense make-out session.

Xu Xiyan had already guessed what he was thinking. “You want to kiss me, don’t you?”

“Of course.”

He wanted to go beyond kissing her—he wanted to devour her.

There was a sly look in Xu Xiyan's eyes: an idea had just occurred to her. She jumped off Huo Yunshen's lap and sat on the sofa across him, striking a sexy pose. She crooked her finger at him as she said seductively, "Come on, Uncle, get on your feet and walk over to me."

Huo Yunshen: "..."

He did not know why, but the seductive way she said "Uncle" made his heart flutter; it plucked a string deep within his heart, sending a thrill through him.

Huo Yunshen's eyes glazed over as he took in her alluring pose and seductive expression.

Huo Yunshen's mind was racing: was she saying that if he wanted to touch her, he would have to stand up and walk over to her?

Watch me!

Huo Yunshen pushed himself out of his wheelchair and onto his feet. He had practiced this in the rehabilitation center more than ten thousand times.

Standing was easy-peasy for him now.

"Excellent! Now try to take a step, Uncle. Come here."

Xu Xiyan's gentle, coaxing guidance was music to his ears. Hmm, thought Huo Yunshen, I guess being called "Uncle" isn't so bad!

But walking was not so easy for him. Huo Yunshen did not have crutches with him; lifting his legs without any kind of support was a huge challenge.

Xu Xiyan saw his hesitation, and added, "If you can walk over to me, I'll let you have your way with me tonight."

Huo Yunshen: "..."

That was the jackpot of all jackpots. He could hardly believe that this lovely lady was tempting him with such an incredible reward.

Motivated by the thought of being able to do whatever he wanted to Xu Xiyan, Huo Yunshen mustered all his strength to

lift a foot, and painstakingly moved it forward.

“Okay, very good, that’s right, don’t stop now.” Xu Xiyan sat up and watched his legs as she guided him, step by step.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps...

Huo Yunshen was now sweating profusely. His shirt was drenched, but he did not let it deter him; he clenched his teeth and concentrated on moving forward.

He finally reached a sofa and supported himself on its back. It was much easier going now that he had something to lean on.

He stopped for a moment to catch his breath. Xu Xiyan walked over to him and helped him wipe the sweat from his brow with a small towel. She asked, “My dear Uncle, you’re making amazing progress! What do you think? Can you take a few more steps?”

“Yeah.”

Xu Xiyan’s lithe figure seemed to be wriggling seductively before his eyes. He had come so far, he wasn’t going to blow it now.

He kept his teeth clenched as he struggled onwards, but just as he crossed the halfway mark, he lost his balance and fell towards the glass coffee table.

Luckily for him, Xu Xiyan was quick to react. She caught him just in time, and the two of them rolled onto the carpet.

Xu Xiyan was on top of him.

The way she stretched the entire length of her body out on top of him was extremely suggestive. Xu Xiyan smiled coyly and said, “Uncle, you only made it half-way through your mission. I’m afraid I can’t let you go all the way with me—but I’ll let you do some things to me.”

Huo Yunshen swallowed. That meant that—aside from the last “step”—he could do anything he wanted with her, right?

Chapter 499 - Kissed Her Passionately

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

“I’ll succeed next time.”

Huo Yunshen flipped them around and pressed her into the carpet.

He slipped a hand around the back of her head as he lowered his face to hers and kissed her passionately.

His other hand had moved to the parts he had been fantasizing about. They felt heavenly under his fingers. He wished Xu Xiyan would offer this “reward” all day, every day.

His wish was granted: in the following days, as long as she was back in her house in Peijing, Xu Xiyan offered up all kinds of “benefits” and “rewards” every day. With the help of her persistent seduction, Huo Yunshen’s legs grew stronger with each passing day.

The first step had turned into several steps, and now, Huo Yunshen could walk a few dozen steps on his own. Every new step was a huge improvement.

Xu Xiyan firmly believed that if she continued her “training,” Huo Yunshen would soon be able to free himself from his wheelchair.

...

It was now the day of the finals for the children’s talent show.

Xu Xiyan found the time in her busy schedule to participate in a parent-child performance with Ying Bao.

The theme they had chosen for their performance was “Frozen.” Xu Xiyan wore Elsa’s sky-blue ice gown, while Ying Bao acted the part of a lively and adorable Anna.

The two of them were so beautiful they looked like they had just walked out of a fairytale.

Elsa and Anna were sisters in the original movie, but Xu Xiyan and Ying Bao had rearranged the story so they were mother and daughter.

In order to keep her identity a secret, Xu Xiyan wore a mask that obscured the upper half of her face.

Their performance included both singing and dancing. To make things more interesting, they had put on roller skates for their choreography, and looked like swans elegantly dancing upon a frozen lake. It was breathtaking.

Xu Xiyan and Ying Bao sang “Let It Go,” the theme song for “Frozen.” Ying Bao’s voice, although childish, was crisp and clear.

Xu Xiyan sang the climax of the song. Everyone in the audience could not help but be moved by her stunning voice.

During the climax of the song and their performance, Xu Xiyan lifted Ying Bao into the air and performed a 20-rotation spin. This was an extremely challenging move, but she pulled it off.

With the final note of the song, mother and daughter struck a pose on the stage. The audience got to their feet and cheered.

The choreography was impeccable, and their lovely singing voices had melted the hearts of everyone in the hall. Ying Bao was awarded the highest score among all the participants; she was the champion of the talent show.

The host who had “turned gay” because of her walked onto the stage to interview her. He asked with a smile, “Cherry Baby, you little cutie pie! What will you do with your cash prize?”

Ying Bao smiled sweetly at the camera before saying, “I wanted to use the money to buy the best Daddy in the world, so Mommy and I can live happily ever after with him. But I

don't have to do that now, because I already have the best Daddy ever!"

The host had learned after the previous interview that the little girl before him had, until recently, been raised by a single mother.

In order to cheer her up, he boldly asked the little girl, "Well, what about me? Will you buy me? Do I have the honor?"

The little girl did not pull her punches: she shook her head with complete conviction. The host clutched at his heart sadly. "But why? Am I not handsome enough for you?"

The little girl cocked her head and looked at the host as she considered it. She smiled and pointed to the dimples on her cheeks. "You don't have dimples. I like uncles with dimples."

The host dug his fingers into his cheeks. "There, I have dimples on my cheeks now. So, how about it?"

The little girl smiled and shrugged. She patted his shoulder comfortingly as she said with a serious face, "Don't be sad, Uncle. You can't be my other Daddy, but there are plenty of other good men in the world!"

"..." The host could not decide whether to laugh or cry. The little girl seemed determined to turn him gay!

Chapter 500 - Can't Figure Her Out

Translator:

Larbre Studio

Editor:

Larbre Studio

The talent show ended with the humorous interview. Sitting in the audience was Huo Yunshen; he had once again put on a disguise to watch his daughter and Xu Xiyan perform on stage.

On the way home, Huo Yunshen gave Xu Xiyan and Ying Bao each a present.

Xu Xiyan received a beautiful bouquet of lavender roses. Lavender roses symbolized romance, true love, rarity, and uniqueness. The bouquet expressed how much Huo Yunshen loved and cherished her.

Ying Bao received an adorable doll made in her own image. It was custom-made, specially ordered by Huo Yunshen. This was the only one in the entire world.

“Wow...I love this present so, so much! Thanks, Daddy!”

Ying Bao was so happy she kissed Huo Yunshen on the cheek.

“I love my present, too. Thanks, Uncle.”

Xu Xiyan kissed him on his other cheek.

Huo Yunshen's heart swelled with happiness with each grateful kiss.

There was nothing more rewarding than a kiss from the woman he loved most.

Ying Bao heard her mother suddenly call her father “Uncle” and was puzzled. “Mommy, when did Daddy become your uncle?”

Like most children, Ying Bao was too young to understand the other, much more adult meaning of “Uncle.” Xu Xiyan patiently explained: “Oh, that’s because Daddy is a few years older than Mommy. That’s why Mommy can call Daddy Uncle!”

Ying Bao was a precocious child who was quick to apply what she had learned. She scratched her head and said, “Oh, I get it now. Daddy is a few years older than Mommy, so Mommy calls him Uncle. Daddy is many, many years older than me—can I call Daddy Big Uncle?”

Ying Bao was pleased with the title she had just come up with. “Big Uncle, Big Uncle...”

“Hahaha... no, not Big Uncle (Da Lao Shu). You should call him Old Uncle (Lao Da Shu)!”

Xu Xiyan laughed so hard her stomach hurt.

Huo Yunshen: “...”

Was it Big Uncle (Da Lao Shu) or Old Uncle (Lao Da Shu)?

Big Uncle (Da Lao Shu) sounded a lot like Big Mouse (Da Lao Shu)...

Huo Yunshen could not muster the strength to correct them. He wondered if their relentless teasing about his age was actually aging him for real...

Huo Yunshen looked at the open joy on their faces, and his heart softened. So what if they called him “Grandpa” next? He would gladly accept his fate with a smile and happy tears in his eyes.

...

After the talent show, Xu Xiyan returned to the set for “Root of Evil” and shot seven consecutive fight scenes with the villain, played by the secondary male lead, Ma Haodong.

Neither of them held back. By the time they were done with the fight scenes, they were both completely exhausted.

Ma Haodong collapsed onto a recliner, too tired to move.

Xu Xiyan walked over to him and handed him a bottle of water. Ma Haodong accepted it and thanked her.

“What’s wrong, Brother Dong? You seem a little off today,” asked Xu Xiyan as she sat on the recliner next to him.

Throughout the day’s shoot, Ma Haodong had made a lot of careless mistakes, resulting in many retakes. He seemed a little absent-minded, which was completely unlike his usual professional attitude.

“You noticed?” asked Ma Haodong morosely as he sat up from the recliner.

“It’s written all over your face: I. Am. Super. Pissed. Off. Today. So. Don’t. Try. Me!” said Xu Xiyan, emphasizing each word.

Ma Haodong would have rolled his eyes if this had been anyone else, but this was Xu Xiyan, and he had only the utmost respect for her. “I swear, nothing gets past you. Yes, that’s right, I’m pissed.”

“What’s wrong?”

“What do you think?” Ma Haodong sank back into the recliner and sighed.

Xu Xiyan thought about it—the only one who could make Ma Haodong this upset was Xiao Yuqian.

“Is Qianqian angry with you again?” Xu Xiyan asked.

Ma Haodong’s expression was one of abject despair. “I wish it were that simple. She’s become so unpredictable lately, I can’t figure her out. I feel like she’s been secretly doing things behind my back.”

...